



Cambridge UNIVERSITY STUDENTS Chronicle

**c.36.92 : undergraduate life**

includes rags, protest, women, bonfire night etc which also listed separately

headlines

Towards close of Edwardian era at 20 Trinity Street “young gentlemen reclined in their rooms consuming larks on toast using silver cutlery brought with them at the beginning of term - suite consisted of sitting room and bedroom, nine sets in building converted from two houses into one boarding establishment; each had laden coal scuttle each day, baths run & gentlemen called at predetermined times; nine suits of clothes carefully cleaned & pressed the day before were placed at ready, anything-g other than suits was seldom worn; nine fires lit & nine breakfasts served in own room; as day went on all chairs etc covered by sheets and dusting would begin. Typical breakfast include fish, fruit or popular mixed grill featuring devilled kidneys. In kitchen a large wickerwork basket housed each man’s silver cutlery, a large wardrobe contained individual sets of linen brought up at beginning of term while large cellar contained nine racks for each man’s stock of wine or the occasional maturing pheasant. Lunch often served in house but -cooked in the college kitchen. Turtle soup, fish, snipe, saddle of lamb ... would involve four separate journeys and an average of 18 to 20 such meals left the college kitchens each day - enormous menu - no portions, if man ordered chicken he got the whole bird to do with as he liked. When meal finished enormous basket on wheels collected dirty crockery & returned it to college. Tea was usually served just after four and at right time of year crumpet and muffins, still hot from Matthews bakery were consumed in front of blazing fire. At end of term would get present in silver and £5.00 for staff who earned wages 7/6 week paid once a term 69 04 01 [44]

History of the Apostles – 85 09 26a

1873 11 04

The court heard how, 30 years ago, a young man had been sent to Cambridge University, his father allowing him £250 a year, which was intended to cover all his college bills. Like a good many other young men he became seriously involved with the worst class of moneylenders. His father was extremely angry but arranged the payment of £6,000 to his creditors. He had been taken away from Cambridge and sent first to Boulogne and then Australia. Arrangements were made to tie up his inheritance to prevent him from borrowing another shilling and to settle everything upon his wife if ever he got married. He and his father never saw each other again. CDN 4.11.1904

1886

Undergraduate 'member of mutual benefit society of which all his fellow undergraduates are members' [45]

1888 11 06

Prince of Wales birthday - farm wagon drawn by 2 horses & packed with undergraduates in various attire followed by crowds parades street (6.11.88)

1890

Phillipa Fawcett placed above Senior Wrangler in Part One Maths Tripos (appointed Principal Assistant London County Council Education Department in 1905) [4.2, 7.20]

1897 05 05

While the members of the University Senate are engaged in a fierce contest to decide whether women shall be admitted to the titles of degrees, the undergraduates have given most emphatic expressions to their opinion. A committee was formed and within six days over 2,100 signatures (the total number of undergraduates and Bachelors is only 2,840) have been sent to a memorial expressing the conviction that the giving of degrees to women would prove injurious to the position and efficiency of the University as a University for men 1897 05 05

1897 05 12

Last night a brilliant debate took place in the Debating Hall of the Cambridge University Union on the question of Women's Degrees. Mr T.F.R. McDonnell of St John's College said that one would suppose that as soon as the report had been passed a plague of women would descend upon Cambridge and infest everything. It was asked why women did not found a University of their own. A University was not built in a day and this would not prevent them from building one 1897 05 12

1897 05 21

After the Senate House scenes yesterday (when the University voted against degrees for women) there was a brief respite. It was the calm before the storm. About 7 o'clock there was a grand gathering of the clans. Undergraduates began trooping through the streets to what was obviously a pre-arranged rendezvous - the Market Hill. From the four corners of the square fire was opened upon everybody and everything within range. Bombs, hand-rockets, and every description of firework manufactured were flung haphazard into the crowd until the scene resembled nothing so much as the bombardment of a hostile camp. It is no exaggeration to say that hundreds of pounds worth of stuff were got rid of during the five hours the proceedings lasted 1897 05 21

1897 05 21

'The University of Cambridge' (the "Daily News" thinks) 'has not improved its reputation for sense and judgement by its votes (not to award women degrees). Not a single argument worthy of the name has been produced in favour of the decision'. 'Of the wisdom shown by the Cambridge Senate there can be but one opinion' (says the "Morning Post"). 'In rejecting by an overwhelming majority the Graces for giving Titles of Degrees to ladies they have done much to revive the reputation of their University for forethought and discretion' 1897 05 21

1897 05 22

Undergraduate carnival following decision not to allow women to take degrees [3.5]

1898

Cambridge Dining Clubs recalled in old issue of 'The Idler', 1898 – Beefsteak & True Blue – 37 01 30e

1898 10 03

Cambridge is itself again. The university town has put on its university aspect; Gown has come back to town, and town has made it welcome. The devotion of Cambridge graduates to their Alma Mater has not been wanting during the past year. The Vice Chancellor mentioned the formation of the Cambridge University Association which has been opened to provide new buildings for the Law and Medical schools. £6,000 have already been subscribed. Cambridge is rich in scholarship; the real need of the hour is money that will enable the university to keep in the van of scientific research; to meet the demands that rapid progress in all departments of knowledge has made upon it CDN 1898 10 03

1898 11 07

Saturday was a typical "fifth" in Cambridge. Faithfully following the precedent set in former years a number of Varsity men and townspeople assembled in the market place, which for three hours or so was crowded with excitable and pugilistically-inclined youths, representing Town and gown. The Gown driven from pillar to post by the howling mob, appeared to be greatly terrified, and despite the vigilance of the police, of whom a large number were told off for special duty, the celebration was not entirely free from violence. Neither town nor gown missed many opportunities of displaying their physical prowess and many are the reports circulated as to the results of the pugilistic encounters that ensued 1898 11 07

1898 11 24

Great crowds had been assembling outside Great St Mary's and the railings before the Senate House with the exception of a pathway of about five yards which the police were endeavouring to keep clear for those attending the honorary degree ceremony for Lord Kitchener. It was evidence that the constables were having hard work in keeping the crowds from encroaching. At length the looked-for rush took place and such was the force that the police were quite powerless to check it. A general scramble to get upon the railings ensued when without the slightest warning the railings suddenly gave way and fell outwards carrying many unfortunate persons to the ground with them. The solidity of this great piece of ironwork is well known and it is wonderful that more were not seriously injured.

1898 11 25

The enthusiasm aroused by Lord Kitchener's visit to Cambridge increased as the day wore on. Varsity men, brim-full of high spirits, gathered in the streets in large numbers. For upwards of an hour thousands of people paraded the streets. It was not until eight o'clock that the cries of "bonfire" were heard. The call was eagerly taken up by hundreds of undergraduates and some boxes from a shop hard by were seized on as the fuel with which to start the blaze. Bands of men bearing massive wooden structures came up from all quarters and the flames mounted to an enormous height, so that the fire could be seen for miles around

1899 02 09

The attention of the University Council of Senate has been called to the disorder which attended the bonfire on November 24th, 1898 when the actual destruction of property was considerable. They recommend that members of the University are forbidden to take part in making or lighting of bonfires in public places within the precincts of the university. Members offending will render themselves liable to be punished by suspension, rustication, expulsion or otherwise 1899 02 09

1899 02 17

Yesterday afternoon the attention was attracted by what seemed to be an imposing funeral procession. But this was no ordinary funeral for instead of the usual hearse an open landau led the way and this was occupied by three young men who wore "the trappings of woe" very lightly. Following were nearly a score of hansoms. It is alleged that at the end of last term at student of Queens' college

“ragged” a couple of Freshmen’s rooms. The matter was reported to the University authorities who came to the conclusion he should be sent down for a year. His friends resolved to show their disapproval. Before the train left the company whistled the “Dead March” and it left amid ringing cheers 1899 02 17

1899 06 08

The gaieties of the May Term have today been enhanced by the appearance of the Australian cricketers. Last night famous Grassy and Ditton Paddock were the scene of brilliant assemblages of beauty and fashion. Cambridge is full for the Eights week and looking at her best. The fair sex - a mighty host - seem to be arrayed in their most killing attire. Almost everybody - who is anybody - seems to have got his people “up”, and everybody's people appear resolutely determined to enjoy themselves - 1899 06 08

1899 10 04

The etiquette of University life is a thing by itself, but “The Freshman at Cambridge” is veritably a royal road to knowledge. One might be some time without learning that it is ‘bad form’ to wear one’s gown and carry an umbrella at the same time. Yet here is the useful rule and many others of the same character set forth clearly. Every Freshman, cast adrift upon the unknown sea of University life, should get this book and make it the subject of careful study 1899 10 04

1899 11 02

When residents in St Andrew’s street, Cambridge, saw a procession of cabs passing onward “all mournful and slow” to the railway station the people knew that someone had been sent down from the University. From Emmanuel College a youth emerged and under a shower of rice made hurriedly for the cab waiting at the door. The driver, “Gentleman Joe” wore a tall hat draped with crape, and so did the drivers of some four cabs what followed. The hero of the hour entered the Great Northern Station, the train moving out to the strains of “Auld Lang Syne”. Meanwhile the cabbies grove back to their respective stands. They were of more cheerful aspect on the return journey and each puffed a festive cigar 1899 11 02

1899 11 07

Almost as soon as it was dark a large number of youths made their way to Cambridge Market Hill which was in a short time alive to the crackling and bangings of the smaller fireworks. The ‘Varsity’, after hall time, joined the townspeople and from eight to eleven there was a roaring, rushing crowd of several hundreds about the hill and neighbouring streets. Certain of the townsmen who had begun the day not to wisely by profusely drinking were responsible for the greater part of the disorder and were seized and marched off by the ever-vigilant gentlemen in blue - 1899 11 07

1900 03 03

There was great rejoicings in Cambridge on the relief of Ladysmith and despite the edict sent forth by the University authorities the conduct of the undergraduate element was again such as to necessitate the intervention of the police. The Varsitymen managed to draw police attention off the market place to scenes elsewhere and, during their temporary absence, succeeded in lighting a bonfire. There was great excitement as one by one the wooden frameworks of the stalls was committed to the flames. The band-stand on Christ’s Pieces was attacked and the seats removed to the Market and quickly consumed. Similar damage was occasioned in all parts of the town.

1900 03 05

The University has the power to stop these things. But what did the University do to prevent the destruction of property – practically nothing. A year ago an edict forbidding bonfires was issued, that edict was torn to shreds. The University cannot afford to have it said that the people of Cambridge had property stolen or destroyed in order to furnish forth an undergraduate carnival. The firmness of the Mayor and his brother magistrates in dealing with the men who came up at the police-court has been much commended. The Barnwell rough belongs to the past. The unfortunate thing is that his mantle had fallen upon the rowdy undergraduate of the present. # c.36.93

1900 03 06 c

Sir – In your editorial you seem to imply that all the damage done during the Ladysmith rag was caused by undergraduates. As a matter of fact all the windows that were broken were broken by townsmen. You seem to have quite forgotten that the prosperity, nay the very existence of the town depends upon University men, and a very good picking the town gets out of the Varsity men. The fines imposed by the magistrates were simply outrageous, passing all bounds of common sense and justice. – Spectator

1900 03 07

The ire of the undergraduate once roused, not even the powerful hand of Alma Mater suffices to entirely quell the wrath that has been kindled. An attacking force of undergraduates gathered many recruits as it made its way along Hills Road and it was at once seen that the objective was the Mayor's residence in Brooklands Avenue. They were dismayed to find the thoroughfare barricaded by a posse of police constables. The mob made a bold rush. The police partially yielded but not more than half of the 'Varsity flank passed through the cordon when the police closed ranks. The trap that had been set proved effective for those who marched triumphantly down the Avenue had not negotiated more than fifty yards when they were encountered by the Proctors mustered in strong force CDN 1900 03 07

1900 03 12

The list of those who have signed the petition in favour of a free pardon for those undergraduates who were recently convicted by the Cambridge magistrates of felony during the Ladysmith celebrations, fully justifies its description as the petition of Cambridge. Over 1,200 residents in the town and members of the University have put their names to it. Cambridge Town and University are unanimous in the hope that the hot-headed enthusiasts of Ladysmith Day may be forgiven for what was done in the excitement of the hour. It remains with the Home Secretary to decide whether the prayer of the petition is to be granted 00 03 12

1900 03 16

The Home Secretary has granted the petition of Cambridge and has recommended the Queen to grant a free pardon to all the defendants. He does not say the undergraduates did not commit felony, but there were extenuating circumstances. This is undoubtedly a slap in the face for the magistrates who share the responsibility for these convictions. Clearly the Home Secretary does not think much of their law, and he thinks less of their capacity for judging of evidence. Some timid people may be apprehensive lest it encourages the demonstratively-inclined magistrate to be more demonstrative in the future 00 03 16

1900 05 21

Cambridge has celebrated the relief of Mafeking and it has done it right nobly. There was no recurrence of the riotous scene witnessed on the occasion of the relief of Ladysmith, no destruction of property. This was due to one thing, the discretion shown by the powers that be in organising a bonfire on Midsummer Common. People poured in in thousands from the country in anticipation of the festivities and so great was the influx that some streets were rendered well night impassable. Still, the crowds were orderly and the police had no difficulty regulating the traffic 00 05 21

1900 11 06

The 'Fifth' was celebrated on Cambridge in a very orderly fashion. The effigies that once characterised Guy Fawkes Day were conspicuous by their almost entire absence. The best attempt at an effigy was made by three or four men who were rigged out in minstrel fashion and paraded the streets with a vehicle in which were seated representations of Mr Kruger and his wife. This attracted a good deal of attention until the rain came and washed the colour from the faces of the dejected looking figures, and sent the minstrels home 00 11 06

1901 05 07

Sanguine people imagined that the rejoicing for the return of the South African Volunteers would pass off quietly. A parental Corporation had taken the wise precaution to secure materials for a fine bonfire on Midsummer Common to prevent the destruction of property. This time it was a plan doomed to partial failure. The fire was comparatively short-lived and undergraduates found a wealth of additional fuel in King Street where a wooden hoarding was dragged off to the Common and triumphantly flung upon the bonfire. Policemen stood guard over the bandstand on Christ's Pieces 01 05 07

1901 06 12

On the occasion of the annual ball the precincts of picturesque Clare College were lavishly illuminated and decorated. The centre path of the court was covered in and carpeted; palms were placed in groups on the lawn and the whole court made brilliant with hundreds of fairy lamps and Chinese lanterns. Rows of fairy lamps along the river side gave the garden a particularly beautiful appearance. Dancing took place in the hall and the combination room. There were 21 dances on the programme and three supper dances. Supper was set in the reading room 01 06 12

1901 11 06

There is little survival of the old celebrations of "The Fifth" in Cambridge, save one or two groups of youngsters with an eye to stray coppers carried around "guys" which may have been effigies of anything. Builders, having a recollection of losses of material on bonfire nights, had men guarding scaffolding poles, but they were not called upon. The most noticeable thing was the fog – thick, damp and irritating. It was not the kind of weather suitable to a rag or even a bonfire in the back-yard. It was better fun sitting by a snug fireside than standing with cold hands and feet in a choking fog letting off small pyrotechnic fry CDN 1900 11 06

1901 11 11

It being the King's 60th birthday it was expected that nightfall would be the occasion for rowdyism and possibly an attempt to illuminate Cambridge Market Hill. The authorities cleared away the stalls, but their action left the historic centre of all "rags" open and free for the antics of the crowd. For a long time nothing occurred except the explosion of a few crackers or the discharge of a pistol from a window overlooking the hill. Large numbers of police were hustled about considerably, and were compelled to defend themselves, but compared with other 'rags', they did not have to exert themselves very much. It was a very tame, spiritless affair that will doubtless be deemed by the "bloods" to have been a complete failure, considering that practically no damage to property was done CDN 1901 11 11

1902 06 03

Peace in South Africa produced strife in Cambridge – one of those fierce contests between the police and the united forces of town and gown which, combined with the destruction of property, constitutes a "rag". In King Street a large double gate was attacked as wood for a bonfire but a vigorous-looking dame appeared from the other side. Her only weapon was a duster, but such a formidable appearance did she present that the crowd melted away before her advance. Skirmishers went towards the Circus of Varieties to obtain a hoarding but this was well guarded and soon they were retracing their steps. The hoarding which surrounded the underground toilets on Market Hill was torn down and lighted. More wood was wanted and the mob pulled down glazed bricks and girders, door-posts and window frames. Next morning the appearance of the projected underground lavatory was more like an archaeological excavation. Thousands of bricks were lying in the bottom mixed up with the dirt and pieces of wood and the general appearance of the place showed how wanton and reckless had been the young hot heads who had wrought the damage ( Undergraduate convicted but Home Secretary reversed decision) [1.5]

1902 06 04

The following notice has been issued by the Vice Chancellor of Cambridge University. "Whereas the attendance of members of the University at certain public exhibitions, performances and places of dramatic entertainment has been productive of grave disorder, notice is given that the attendance of

any member in statu pupillari at the Circus of Varieties, Auckland Road, is prohibited and will render him liable to be punished by suspension, rustication, expulsion or otherwise." 02 06 04

1903 04 14

The accounts of 'ragging' at a Cambridge Theological College led to an interview with a Cambridge minister acquainted with one of the victims – the man who had the adornment of his upper lip removed by amateur barbers. The undergraduate did not have the whole of his moustache removed, but only half of it, the operation performed while he was held down in his bed. He had a splendid moustache. It was quite the pride of his mother who was terribly upset over it. His life has been made thoroughly unbearable by his tormentors, who wanted him to give up preaching. They have broken all his windows several times and the young fellow has been thoroughly broken down and ill. 03 04 14

1903 11 06

Time once was when the concentrated animosity between Cambridge Town and Gown found annual outlet on 'The Fifth'. There are many old inhabitants who have seen the traditional riots gradually die down with the building up of mutual ties between University and Town. Athletic Varsitymen and pugilistic townsmen no longer belabour each other; they join issue in attempts at bonfires with police baiting thrown in as a sideline. At Castle End undergraduates managed to secure a shutter with the intention of making it the nucleus of a bonfire; a constable was rolled to the ground, his helmet knocked off and his whistle and truncheon lost before more policemen arrived and three arrests were made – one member of the Varsity, a soldier and a townsman 03 11 06

1904 03 01

All Cambridge united in welcoming King Edward VII and Queen Alexandra to open the new University buildings known as the Sedgwick Museum, the Squire Law Library, Botanical and Medical Schools in Downing Street. Cambridge University has never stagnated but kept pace with the demands of the time. Newer universities have their place in the general scheme of things but they can never supplant our ancient university of Cambridge, nor her twin sister on the banks of the Isis. With the increasing spread of education their prosperity increases.

1904 03 02

The Royal visit to Cambridge was followed by an undergraduate 'rag' which caused wanton destruction of public and private property even though a large body of police, included mounted men, were on duty. One policeman guarding the proctors was singled out for a little 'baiting'. As they surged around he took out his baton which was immediately snatched from his hand. Now unprotected the affair seemed likely to develop into a serious disturbance but mounted policemen began to harry the crowd who fled before the horsemen. Many youths annoyed the riders by throwing crackers near their horses. One animal was so startled by an explosion that it threw its rider and careered across Parker's Piece.

1904 03 15

St John's College students carried out a mock funeral for an undergraduate who was ejected from the New Theatre on three occasions in one week for having infringed the rules adopted to preserve order. The college authorities decided he should be 'sent down' and his friends showed organised a process of 13 cabs which filed along the streets at funeral pace to the railway station. A halt was made outside the New Theatre to allow the travellers to indicate their disapproval of the management. During the whole journey shouts, singing and the blowing of horns was continuous. 04 03 15

1904 06 10

The last procession of boats held following Bumps (10.6.04)

1904 06 11

During 'May' Week the permanent part of the population takes much coin of the realm from the floating part but this year visitors seemed likely to be well down because of the weather. Then on Thursday sunbeams brought a large number of visitors bringing with them awe-inspiring loads of

luggage. Airy dresses of muslin and chiffon and a boating excursion are inseparable to the feminine. They were very comfortable during the all-too-brief spell of sunshine but then the ladies grew colder and colder until in desperation they gratefully accepted loans of jackets and even overcoats from their male escorts. Thus the racing was not as picturesque as it might have been

1904 07 02

Few realise the lavish expenditure on the May Balls held in Cambridge Corn Exchange. After the corn merchants have vacated the building on the Saturday evening a small army of workmen take possession. They labour until midnight when the advent of the Sabbath and the strict rules governing municipal buildings shut them out for 24 hours. With the first hour of Monday morning they re-enter and by eight that evening the place is transformed into an artistic ballroom through which not a vestige of the prosaic Corn Exchange is seen. What of the cost? There is not less than £2,000 worth of goods in the ball room; add to that the cost of utilising the Guildhall as a supper room and include the china and plates for the supper and you have a total of some thousands of pounds to provide our moneyed visitors with an evening's entertainment. CDN 2.7.1904

1904 10 08

During the next few days some 800 to 1,000 young men will be coming into residence at Cambridge University. One of the first things they will notice is the number of people who are anxious to recommend them to tailors or robemakers. These people draw five shillings commission for each customer recommended. The fresher will also find in his room a number of 'necessities' from other tradesmen. If he keeps these his 'bedder' draws the commission he had to pay. There are many tradesmen who do not indulge in this kind of touting and young men are advised to go straight to their tutor to find the best traders to deal with. CDN 8.10.1904

1904 11 07

The results of the fifth of November 'rag' in Cambridge were more or less serious injuries to two policemen, considerable damage to private property and several police-court summonses. A little boy engaged in firing a squib in the midst of a 'ragging' party proceeding along Jesus Lane was knocked down by a cyclist and rendered insensible. Fortunately he was soon revived by a number of undergraduates who at once attended to him. One man fainted and another was admitted to Hospital suffering from injuries to the head caused by his being knocked down by a cab. 1904 11 07

1904 11 10

The King's birthday is one of those occasions upon which a certain section of the 'Varsity and Town consider it necessary to turn themselves into public nuisances. This year they avoided the Borough police by making a raid on Chesterton. The mob made tracks for Midsummer Common with the object of having a bonfire. Several hundred crossed Jesus Green Bridge where a council of war was held. Carlyle Road was mentioned as leading to fuel for the fire but a number of the belligerents made an incursion down a private road. Several fences were broken down and flames shot into the air as the surreptitiously-obtained timber was thrown on to the fire. No police appeared on the scene, though a number of members of the Force were on duty on the borough side of the river CDN 10.11.1904

1904 11 26

The bedmaker is an institution. Without her the University would be sadly disorganised. Now The Granta has been conducting a bedmakers competition which Mrs Jacob of Magdalene has won. She was born in 1829 and has served the college for 62 years. Mrs Hills of St Johns has a record of continuous service since 1839 while Mrs Nichols has served 28 years at Corpus with 11 at Peterhouse before that. But several ladies entirely declined to take the contest seriously, one saying she had read in The Granta 'articles which no gentleman could possibly have written' CDN 26.11.1904

1905 03 04

A practical joke of a particularly senseless character has just come to light. The incident recalls a similar hoax that was effected during the visit to England of the Shah of Persia years ago. The CDN became apprised of the visit but in view of the former hoax refrained from publishing any account and



our suspicion was confirmed by a telegram from the Carlton Hotel saying 'No member of the Sultan of Zanzibar's suite was away from London'. The Mayor was very cautious and took care not to make any elaborate preparations for the reception of the visitors. 05 03 04 [The Mayor had received a telegram purporting to come from the Sultan seeking an official welcome. He arranged a low-key tour. Later the Daily Mail claimed he had been hoaxed by an undergraduate, Horace De Vere Cole]

1905 03 06

Undergraduates started a bonfire on Parker's Piece with the aid of a wooden fence from the front of a house in Melbourne Place. One of the proctors who arrived on the scene before the appearance of the police became the object of the amusement of a large number of roughs, some of whom, after having smashed the hats of the 'bulldogs' began to hustle him. He escaped actual injury owing chiefly to the stalwart and vigorous defence of the 'bulldogs' assisted by one or two townsmen. The fire was extinguished by a bucket of water 05 03 06b

1905 11 06

It is a recognised custom in Cambridge, which no amount of protest seems able to abolish, to make the celebration of the Fifth the occasion for a rag. This year it fell on a Sunday but this did not deter them and a huge bonfire was started on Midsummer Common. The chief sufferer was G.P. Hawkins whose premises in Parsonage Street was attacked during the Nelson rag and on Saturday another unsuccessful assault was made. But on Sunday several hundred undergraduates returned, smashed the fence and seized egg cases, barrels and a tarpaulin to add to the flames. 05 11 06b

1905 11 06

The information that a number of Varsity and Town roughs broke into Mr Hawkins' premises on Sunday night and stole and destroyed property to the value of £20 will surprise even Cambridge people. To disturb the peace of a Sabbath by forcibly entering a tradesman's premises and to burn the stolen material in a public place is just as truly a robbery as if the marauders had broken into the Guildhall and taken £20 from the safe. We trust the University authorities will look facts in the face and that such activities will be promptly scotched. 05 11 06a-d

1905 11 09

Sir - On 1<sup>st</sup> March 1904 a sergeant of the Metropolitan Police, sent to Cambridge on the occasion of the King's visit, was violently assaulted and kicked by an undergraduate. After six months' illness, during which his pay amounting to £54 was paid by the Borough of Cambridge, he was pensioned off as unfit for service. On 5<sup>th</sup> November 1904 a constable, having taken one undergraduate into custody, was brutally attacked by others and was left insensible. He has been on the sick list ever since and pensioned off. All members of the University should co-operate to prevent such scenes of riot and disorder - H.M. Taylor, Trinity College. 05 11 09

1905 11 09

It is almost incredible that any undergraduate should so far demean himself as to treat a policeman with the blackguard violence of a hooligan. If we have hitherto been inclined to take a lenient view of the occasional destruction of property it was because we felt sure the grosser acts were the work of town loafers who were encouraged by thoughtless undergraduates. But those who took part in gutting a shop should suffer the legal penalty and not be saved from imprisonment by University authorities. - Cambridge Review 05 11 09a

1905 11 10

Rag - great damage to property - 05 11 10 a & b

1905 11 11

One does not associate Sidney Sussex College with the rowdyism that is rampant in Cambridge. Yet on Saturday night the porter found the door of his lodge refused to open: it had been securely screwed up and he was a prisoner. After a troubled night he was aroused by the bedmakers' loud ringing at the

gate and saw there was no option but to smash the window and escape through the jagged aperture to admit the waiting and wrathful 'bedders'. 05 11 11a [2.15]

1905 11 15

Sir – twenty years ago undergraduates at Oxford had two types of 'rag'. On the 5<sup>th</sup> of November we went out and provoked people who didn't wear caps and gowns to hit us, and we hit them back. Then whenever our college had done something great in sport we burnt up a good deal of the college property in the 'quad' and paid for it in our 'wattels' at the end of term. But when the authorities thought there had been too much friendly hitting they used to 'gate' their colleges en bloc at nine o'clock. Now Cambridge undergraduates have discovered a third sort – plundering, robbing and annoying citizens to get wood for bonfires. This is hooliganism and the Riot Act might not be out of place – V.S.N. 05 11 15

1906 02 03

Modern undergraduates' dress is a neat disorder. Flannel trousers, brogues, a fancy waistcoat, a shooting jacket and low golfing collar is the costume in which he lounges into his lectures or goes to the theatre in the evening. Dons are hardly known for their strict attention to the latest fashions but they have never known men so careless in their dress before. 06 02 03b

1906 02 28

A sad fatality occurred at Jesus College. A Freshman was engaged in cleaning with benzoline a pair of gloves, which he was wearing on his hands and arms when the gloves took fire from a lighted candle. Help was near at hand and a doctor was promptly in attendance, but the shock was so great that despite every attention he sank rapidly and died in little more than an hour. The deceased should have rowed in the Lent Races but in consequence of the accident the Jesus boats did not take part. 06 02 28a

1906 05 12

One of the most disgraceful 'rags' occurred a few days ago. An undergraduate had been celebrating his birthday by giving a party to his intimates where they dined too well. Shortly before midnight the raiders returned to the room but their victim had not retired and succeeded in repelling the onslaught. Later they came back, breaking and destroying indiscriminately. The graduate was a great traveller and his room contained many valuable Eastern trophies which he had collected in out-of-the-way parts of the world. 06 05 12a

1906 06 09

Cambridge has surrendered to May Week visitors very completely. These pretty butterflies, who transform our mundane streets into kaleidoscope scenes of colour and animation, mean increased profit for the tradesman and are a source of joy to the lodging-house keeper. They must have somewhere to lay their heads, dainty dinners and mayonnaise for supper. They cause money to circulate and many is the summer holiday they provide for the householders who provide rooms for their comfort. 06 06 09b. Record number of May Week visitors – 09 06 11

1906 06 10

Undergraduate dress – 06 02 10a

1906 06 28

Mrs Moyes of the Lion Hotel claimed payment from an undergraduate for the hire of horses. He had entered Trinity College and associated with men of means and even of wealth. He stated his allowance was £300 a year (this was denied by his father who said it was £15 per term plus tailor's bills – about £150). The bill was for the hire of three horses on the same day – he had tossed up with two friends and lost. But this was not a 'necessary' and, being under 21 years of age, he was not liable to pay it. 06 06 28

1906 11 17

## Money lending allegations – Cambridge tradesmen and students – 06 11 17d

1907 01 24

The famous Pitt Club was damaged in a disastrous fire which commenced in the dining room at the top of the building destroying the roof above. Fortunately the club records together with some of the valuable engravings of William Pitt were saved but many interesting portraits of former members were destroyed. The Fire Brigade used their new steamer for the first time and but for their efforts the club would have been a thing of the past 07 01 24

1907 01 26

In such a cold spell undergraduate etiquette is apt to go by the board. It is an unwritten law that no junior member of the University should, on pain of merciless chaffing, appear in academical dress plus an overcoat. The idea of cap and gown and gloves was simply horrifying. Yet both these laws have been broken with impunity. One young man appeared in public with cap, gown, overcoat and a pair of very aggressive yellow-brown gloves. 07 01 26a

1907 01 26

It would show a little more consideration for the feelings of other people if the dog-fancying undergraduate would go a little farther afield than Midsummer Common for their rat-worrying exhibitions. I have no objection to the extermination of the rodents nor to the training of dogs for the purpose, but to many people the sight of the 'sport' in full view of Victoria Avenue is repulsive and disgusting. Such displays should not be permitted in places which force the sight of them willy-nilly upon every passer-by 07 01 26a

1907 02 02

All over the country old Pittites offer sighs of relief at the comparatively small amount of damage caused to the Pitt Club, whose dining room was burnt out. The committee is to be congratulated on the speed with which it made new arrangements for dining, and the fortitude of the cook, who sent out breakfast on Saturday morning from a kitchen several inches deep in freezing water, deserves to be recorded in letters of gold and hung up in every kitchen. 07 02 02

1907 02 12

A Chinese undergraduate of St Catharine's college was summoned for driving a motor car in Jesus Lane at a furious rate. Frederick Siggers, a college porter, said he was wheeling a plate basket when the car passed within two feet of the wall on the wrong side of the road at 18 miles an hour. The student said it would be a wonderful car that could get up to that speed after a sharp corner. But he was convicted and his licence endorsed. 07 02 12

1907 02 21

The University Vice Chancellor has condemned the undergraduates who wrecked Kier Hardy's meeting at the Guildhall. It is one of the University traditions that honest opinions, however unpopular, should receive a fair hearing. Cambridge is not unsympathetic towards the Labour Party and its leader should have been given a chance of expressing his views. 07 02 21

1907 03 03

About ten years ago some undergraduates of St John's College removed one of the stone balls from Clare College Bridge. They transferred it to a Rob Roy canoe but this capsized and the purloined ball sank to the bottom of the Cam. There it has remained ever since. One of the other balls was put in its place and a new one made, now partly obscured by ivy. (Item from the 'Table Talk' column on 1<sup>st</sup> April) 07 03 30b

1907 05 03

Trinity Hall undergraduates have subscribed £6 3s. towards the fund for repairing the damage done to Mr Glasscock's cab on the night of the visit of Kier Hardy to Cambridge. It was smashed beyond repair but as vehicle was not covered by the Riot Damages Act he had no compensation for the loss

sustained. At the commencement of term the News published the facts, calling the attention of undergraduates to the heavy loss they had caused and inviting them to put the matter right. 07 05 03

1907 05 18

Dinner for the ordinary, healthy undergraduate is an event of importance. But students at one of the largest colleges trooped into the dining hall, bowed their heads while grace was said, and then to the utter astonishment of the senior members, rose and without a word solemnly walked out. The action was a protest against the kitchen management: there has been dissatisfaction not so much with the quality of the food, but with the quantity and the manner in which it has been served. The protest has caused an improvement in the cuisine. 07 05 18

1907 06 08

The boat procession used to be the most popular of the May Week gaieties. The brilliant blazers of the collegians, the varied colours of the ladies' charming costumes, the prettily adorned boats together with the enlivening strains of an excellent band all combined to make a scene of colour and animation. The gathering fell through owing to the apathy of the boating men who objected to dressing up to be looked at. But it is a great pity 07 06 08a

1907 09 26

A College Fellow sued an undergraduate for nearly £100. He had paid the lad's loans, lodgings and tobacconist's bill and given him a horse as a present, together with a quantity of saddlery, which he'd kept in his stables for nothing. But then they'd quarrelled. The judge said it was the most disgraceful case he'd ever tried 07 09 26

1907 09 30

Magdalene welcomes member English Royal Family as undergraduate for first time – Prince Leopold of Battenberg – 07 09 30b

1907 10 12

It is always interesting to see the young freshmen come up in October with their fathers, mothers, sisters, cousins or aunts. As you gaze upon their fresh faces, full of hope and expectation, you think of how their devoted parents will deny themselves many luxuries in order that their sons may receive the best possible education. But the freedom from restraint often proves too much for those not possessed of strong wills. The University is not the place for them – as they learn to their sorrow. 07 10 12a

1907 11 09

Few 'Guys' on Nov 5th - mainly a firework festival [2.20]

1907 11 12

The visit of Royalty to Cambridge was made an excuse for an outburst of destructive exuberance on the part of undergraduates, errand boys, and others. A rush was made for the bandstand on Christ's Pieces, but it was guarded by police so they proceeded to Victoria Bridge, which was held by sturdy country policemen. Some then kindled a fire near the Cutter Ferry, dragging some palings from the Ferry House, which filled the souls of the 'raggers' with glee. 07 11 12

1907 11 16

Tolerant attitude to Rag but police prevent Market Hill bonfire [2.21]

1907 11 26

A 'mock funeral' saw a procession of 100 cabs boarded by undergraduates who scrambled to the roof of the vehicles for the journey to the railway station. The cabbies had decorated their whips with pieces of crepe and 'mourners' with mouth organs and a miniature bagpipes played hideous music. The 'deceased' was 'sent down' for being out of Caius College after midnight – he had gone to London but his car had broken down. 07 11 26

1907 12 10

Thirty years ago there was far more drinking and drunkenness amongst undergraduates than now. There are still occasions when too much wine is drunk, such as when the college boat goes out of training and the end of the Lent and May Races. But what else could be expected with 3,000 young fellows drawn from every kind of home and rank of society? 07 12 10

1907 12 10

“For an isolated policeman to be attacked and beaten to death by eight or ten students is an occurrence which happens almost once a week at Cambridge or Oxford”, writes a correspondent in the ‘Messagero’, (Rome). He adds that it is common for a group of about 50 undergraduates to wreck a shop as if a dynamite bomb had exploded in it when “the honest tradesman had refused them credit”. In the theatre undergraduates do what they like, interrupt the actresses, start discussions with the actors on the stage, beat the orchestra and upset the stalls, he alleges. 07 12 10

1908 03 14

Undergraduates climb Backs trees, roped together in Alpine fashion - 08 03 14

1908 05 02

Three terms ago the undergraduates of Caius College indulged in a strike against the kitchen arrangements. They refused to eat what was provided – but still had to pay for what they would not eat. Their example was infectious and spread to Trinity. But there they meals have now returned to their old price and standard – they are as exorbitant as they are disgusting. The present arrangements present all the worse features of the less cultured American municipalities. But whoever met an undergraduate who didn’t grumble about ‘Hall’ 08 05 02d

1908 05 22

Tragedy surrounds the death of a Trinity College undergraduate who took rooms in Park Parade and acquired a reputation for studiousness. A revolver shot was heard and a fellow undergraduate bursting the door open, found the young man reclining in an easy chair. His right hand still clutched a revolver and in the centre of his forehead was a bullet wound. A doctor was called, but the lad was beyond human aid. Only one chamber of the revolver, which was practically new, had been charged. CWN 08 05 22 p5

1908 06 05

There has been an Alpine fever amongst undergraduates, finding a vent in climbing trees along the Backs. The wireless telegraphy station on the Huntingdon Road has been the site of the latest exploit. This is a pole over 200 feet in height which receives messages from Cumnor Hill near Oxford. Two undergraduates merrily commenced the ascent by means of the metal spikes driven in at convenient intervals and managed to reach the top. But the return voyage was not so easily accomplished and they reached terra firma with a distinct sigh of relief. It is a matter for common wonder what object will next receive the attention of this strange species. CWN 08 06 05 p5

1908 06 05

A number of prominent rowing men, objecting to the known Socialistic proclivities of Messrs Gomme and Bull, and believing they had dared to hold a Fabian meeting within the precincts of Trinity Hall, fetched them forcibly from the rooms of a friend and ducked them in a bath which had been prepared in the middle of the Court. A circular was issued that was sent to every Member of Parliament, setting out the facts. The ‘raggers’ have been punished. 08 06 05 p5

1908 06 05

Considerable annoyance has been caused to the dons of Trinity and St John’s by gramophone concerts given by undergraduate punting parties. As the Cam is technically a highway the police were asked to put a stop to the nuisance and a constable patrolled the river in a ‘tub’. As he was rowing quietly along an undergraduate propelled his craft with such force that its gunwale was smashed in and the

policeman narrowly escaped a ducking. The lad has now received a summons for 'obstructing the highway' CWN 08 06 05 p3

1908 06 26

Proud papas and mammas in great number congregated in the gallery and upon the floor of the Senate House to watch their sons in clothes of sombre hue wearing upon their shoulders the hood of a Bachelor of Arts kneel before the Vice-Chancellor to receive their degrees. According to ancient custom the Senior Wrangler was first presented and at the tail of the list came the wooden spoonist, Mr R. Pask, a master at the Cambridge and County Boys' School. Strung upon strong twine stretching from either gallery was the trophy, a handsome wooden spoon, which danced over the heads of those seated on the floor in obedience to the string-pulling of undergraduates 08 06 26 p3

1908 12 03

There is a rule at the New Theatre which decrees that undergraduates may not charter a box unless they are accompanied by a lady. So four fertile brains sought to overcome it. No relative of the softer sex being available it was determined that one of the four should undergo sufficient outward transformation to satisfy the authorities. The charming gown was of white satin bespangled with sequins designed by Kate Reilly of Dover Street, the beautiful head of hair was done by Clarkson who came down himself to direct the final 'touching up'. The group dined at Buol's and taxied to the theatre. But what happened afterwards and how the 'lady' was smuggled into college we are not at liberty to divulge CDN 08 12 03 [8.29]

1909 02 26

Carrie Nation hoax – 09 02 26

1909 11 12

Bonfire night scenes – CWN 09 11 12

1909 11 19

One of the most successful undergraduate hoaxes ever perpetrated was carried out in the Hall of Emmanuel College. Mr W.M. Malleson, a prominent member of the University Amateur Dramatic Club, disguised by a florid countenance with a grizzled grey moustache and beard impersonated Mr G. B. Haddock, the Liberal MP for North Lonsdale. He delivered a pithy address on Women's Suffrage. From first to last, despite the name of 'Haddock' there was no suspicion of 'cod' on the part of the audience who took the debate in real earnest CWN 09 11 19

## **1910**

1910 03 11

A party of five undergraduates attempted to repeat the 'Merry Widow' hoax at the New Theatre but were sadly unsuccessful. It is a well-known rule that undergraduates may not purchase boxes unless accompanied by ladies or some elderly chaperone. A box was ordered in the name of the Hon Miss Neville of Magdalene College, which aroused suspicion. The party comprised three undergraduates and two 'ladies' who were very tall, walked with mannish strides and spoke in a quaint high-pitched falsetto. Mr Redfarn did not take many seconds to spot the disguise. 10 03 11f

1910 06 17

Saturday's bump suppers proved exceptionally popular. It is customary for bonfires to be held in college courts and the frequent discharge of fireworks kept the fun flowing until the early hours. Jesus, who retained their position as head of the river, held a magnificent bonfire on the Close. A large crowd attracted by an enormous pile of old boxes dumped near the tennis courts, assembled in anticipation of fun before the pile was set ablaze by firing Roman candles into the heart of the inflammable mass. 10 06 17

1910 06 17

One of the biggest mock funerals for many years resulted as a difference of opinion between the authorities of Emmanuel and several junior members of the college as to the proper conduct of a 'bump supper' after which they had lit a bonfire on the lawn in the front court. Some ten undergraduates in their third year were rusticated for a week. A string of hansom cabs appeared at the gates, the 'corpses' clambered on to the roofs and mourners in evening dress and wearing old silk hats swathed with crape accompanied them to the station. Includes members of CUOTC in uniform with rifles reversed - thought to be bad form so soon after King's funeral 10 06 17a

1910 11 11

An undergraduate was fined for assaulting a policeman on Guy Fawkes Night. A considerable amount of damage had been done, hoarding demolished, gas lamps broken, the railway station raided and milk churns overturned. The most serious incident occurred at Jesus Sluice footbridge where a battle royal took place between members of the County Constabulary and a large party of undergraduates and town roughs. They stoned the police, all of whom were hit, and PC Johnson was struck on the forehead by a piece of board and rendered unconscious. Only the arrival of police reinforcements had averted further trouble. 10 11 11 & a

1911 03 10

"Mock funeral" held when Trinity Hall undergraduate sent down for disciplinary offence, 100 horse & motor vehicles in procession with brass band on coal wagon leading. At the head of the funeral procession was a hansom. Seats on the top with legs dangling over the side, was the undertaker. His mournful calling seemed to have cast a settled gloom over his countenance. His eyes were mournful and sad, and his clothing was of the deepest black, save for his socks (he wore no shoes), which were of the brightest scarlet. In his hand he waved a long whip (an emblem of his mournful trade), with a bright handkerchief to match his wonderful socks tied to it. Behind the hearse were nine carriages filled with loudly lamenting mourners – extract from a report of a 'Mock Funeral' for an undergraduate sent down from university 11 03 10b [1.2,1.3,10.11]

1911 05

Undergraduates forbidden to take part in any musical or dramatic production outside University buildings; proctors booed by 300 undergraduates on way to University service [10.10]

1911 05 19

In a little side passage in King Street a barrel organ was draped with black and mauve as hansoms, taxis and growlers arrived in their dozens. The coffin was covered with crepe surmounted by cap and gown while plumes barely concealed the lines of an express delivery van in which sat the 'corpse' smartly dressed in grey suit and felt bowler. There were about 100 horses and motor vehicles in the procession to the station where the tops of the railway carriages were filled with figures clad in varying garb from pyjamas and rowing shorts to mourning suits and dress suits. It was the most imposing mock funeral ever seen in Cambridge 11 05 19d & e

1911 11 10

A motor car drove into Sawston with several undergraduates. They visited the Stores and bought women's hats then commenced their fun by knocking people's hats off in the street and replacing them with those they had bought. The lads next went to the Queen's Head where they compelled the landlord to sit down while they drew the beer. They took pictures from the wall and placed them in the car – but the chauffeur took them back - then quite upset a cinematograph show, one hanging by his toes from a crossbar in the tent. It was a relief to the villagers when the motor left for Cambridge. 11 11 10e

1911 11 10

Undergraduate disrupt Saffron Walden fair, one received broken jaw from showman – 11 11 10e

1911 11 10

Two daring swindlers victimised a number of University tradesmen by representing themselves as 'Varsitymen and ordering goods to a small amount to be sent to their rooms. They paid with cheques for £5 'from their father' which they got the shopkeeper to cash. The swindlers looked typical undergraduates in grey flannel trousers and tweed jackets, one of them had a gown over his arm. They gave Magdalene as their college and their names were found on the University register. 11 11 10g

1911 11 10

Serious 'ragging' took place in celebration of the 5th of November. A number of undergraduates carried 'life-preservers' and a violent assault made on the premises of Messrs Rattee and Kett where an employee was seriously injured. A mounted policeman was pulled from his horse and a police sergeant received a nasty cut over his eye. A member of the University was arrest for assault. But beyond the smashing of a number of street lamps little actual damage was done to property 11 11 10a & b

1912 03 08

A mock funeral started from the "corpse's" lodging in Lensfield Road. There was a long line of taxis, hansoms and even four-wheelers stretching some distance down Trumpington Street. There was no elaborate "hearse" as in previous funerals: the body was placed quite simply in a hansom bearing the words "Alas! My poor brother" and smoked cigars throughout. His "cabby's" hat was draped with crepe while the majority of the fancifully-dressed mourned wore complimentary black-eyes out of respect for the 'deceased'. There were an extraordinary number of "flappers" – quite stunning flappers some of them were too. One of the best was a suffragette and Mrs Pankhurst also figured in the procession. 12 03 08

1912 03 15

Cambridge undergraduates formed a Strike Emergency Committee to avert the disaster with which the nation is threatened by the coal strike. The men were extremely enthusiastic and any reference to 'getting the coal' brought vociferous cheers. If they carried out their desire to work in the mines they would require protection: while half were underground the others should be on guard to see the cages and ventilation apparatus were not interfered with. Police would not be able to send help. Postcards were distributed on which students placed their names and addresses which would find them in the vacation if an emergency arose 12 03 15b & c

1912 03 15

Undergraduate plans to organise a strike emergency committee have been attacked by the 'Cambridge Magazine'. It reports: "The strike-smashing Saturnalia of Mr Calderon and his Comic Coal Heavers, which began in Cambridge to the mingled disgust and amusement of King's was continued on Friday night. We hope they will not take themselves seriously, and that their endeavours to make this ancient seat of learning ridiculous will soon cease

1912 11 08

It was one of the noisiest 'rags' seen for some years, for the introduction of a variety of bomb-firework, which gives a report louder than a rifle shot, more than compensated for the fewer Varsity men than usual. The liveliest scene occurred in King Street where the crowd were attracted by the sight of the hoarding outside the partly-demolished Hobson Street Chapel. Instead they turned their attention array of woodwork in connection with the building of the new Wesleyan Chapel near Christ's Pieces, but this was strongly guarded by police. Another battle broke out in Grange Road where some 400 undergraduates damaged the fence around Mr Ebenezer Smith's garden. 12 11 08a & b

1912 11 09

Varsity cads disrupt cinema [8.27]

1912 12 12



R.C. Lehmann told the Authors' Club that when he was at University a Trinity Hall undergraduate with plenty of money had published a paper called the 'Gadfly' containing an irreverent account of a Cambridge institution, Mr Oscar Browning, who was then responsible for its closure. Later they'd heard that Browning was planning a serious and thoughtful magazine to be called the 'Granta'. So they immediately launched their own journal of that name before his could come out. Their most brilliant scoop was to publish the answers to the problem paper in the Mathematical Tripos 12 12 12 & a

1913 02 14

An unusual feature of the Mock Funeral (of an undergraduate 'sent down' from college) was a miniature coffin borne by a Chinaman. It was, like the 'corpse' completely hidden in the 'hearse', for the hansom was covered by men who seemed to cling to it as bees swarm on a tree. The procession was preceded by a two-seater car driven by an old fellow with a red beard and enormous straw hat sitting beside his 'spouse', a lady with a high complexion, a shawl alone betraying her age. The 'cortege' numbered nearly 50 vehicles including a 'flapper' riding a bicycle meant for three men. Her green hobble skirt was not as demurely worn as are the dresses of typical Cambridge girls. 13 02 14 p10 CIP

1913 06 06

'If you want to spend a gay week, come to Cambridge for the May Week and we'll promise lots of merriment and fun'. Cambridge May Week is now in full swing. We have long ceased to wonder at the anomaly of a May Week which comes in June and lasts a fortnight. According to the 'Onlooker' it was in the year 1882 that the May Races, around which all the festivities have grown up, changed their date from May to June. But custom dies hard and people would be horrified if anyone were so bold as to suggest an alteration now 13 06 06 p7 CIP

1913 11 07

'Fifth' celebrations, undergraduate rag and its police court sequel. 100 yards wooden fencing torn down Tenison Rd & bonfire made in GER yard Station Yard scene, mounted police charge, Homerton college attacked 13 11 07 p7 CIP

1913 11 14

An undergraduate told the court that he was a relative of the Khedive of Egypt and living at Shelford with a private tutor. He told his valet to get tickets for the New Theatre. But when refused admission he'd got involved in a struggle with an attendant and fell to the ground. The manager said he'd been drunk and had used bad language. But this was a serious matter from a moral point of view and would affect his career here and in his own country if upheld. He was convicted. 13 11 14 p10 CIP

1914 06 19

May Week will be remembered as the low-water mark in the long series of "Mays". Tradesmen unanimous that business has never been so dull. The gaiety and brightness has diminished and the number of visitors shows considerable decrease as compared with last year 14 06 19 CIPof

1919

Prince Albert & Prince Henry amongst undergraduates [3.13]

1919 02

400 Navy & 120 Army students join 500 Freshmen. Enormous influx means limits for undergraduate lodgings have to be extended to within 2.5 miles of Gt St Mary's [3.7, 3.12]

1919 06 11

May Week Revival Favoured with brilliant weather, without even the proverbial thunderstorm, May Week, revived in Cambridge this year with all its glory, has been one great success. The festivities have been very much as in pre-war days. There have been the usual brilliant and select functions, including balls, college Concerts, garden parties, etc. The revival has been welcomed by University

and Town people alike but the number of visitors has not been as great as had been anticipated generally 19 06 11 [3.11]

1919 11 12

"Fifth" fizzles at Cambridge. The stage was set on Wednesday evening for an old-time celebration of the 5th of November. Proctors, "bulldogs," special constables, mounted police, mere "Roberts", undergraduates, townspeople and schoolboys turned out to play their respective roles, but nothing happened. A few fire-works - cannons, crackers etc — were discharged on Market Hill but the proceedings were almost as tame as the original affair arranged by Mr. Guy Fawkes and a few of his fanatical friends 19 11 12 CIPof

## **1920**

1920 02 03

Union of Democratic Control attempted to hold 'Bolshevik' meeting but disrupted by undergraduates; senior proctor, T.R. Glover, hit by flour bomb; speaker Norman Angell rescued by police – Ch 20 02 03d

1920 03 02

Norman Angell, author of 'The Great Illusion' ragged – bitterly hostile reception; police could not stop undergraduates entering the windows - CDN 20 03 02

1920 03 03

Mock Funeral of Caius man, first for six years – a solitary conveyance does not give impression that there is much enthusiasm for this form of demonstration nowadays. – Ch 20 03 03d; photo – Ch 20 03 10a CDN 20 03 01

1920 03 10

From outbreak of war have been pacifists proclaiming against action taken against Germans who would have moved heaven and earth to bring war to early conclusion. They possess not a spark of British pluck ... led Cambridge gaining reputation as hotbed of Pacifism. University tried to stop this vile work; now opposition to such pro-German propaganda and return of pacifist Bertrand Russell to Trinity. Should prohibit pacifist meetings – Ch 20 03 10d

1920 03 31

Recent 'Rag'. A report will be presented to Cambridge Town Council tomorrow (Thursday) by the Watch Committee in respect to claims under the Riot (Damages) Act arising out of the recent "rag" in Cambridge. The Town Clerk reported to the Watch Committee that three claims had been received under the Riot (Damages) Act in respect of damage to the Castle Hotel amounting to £6.19s; Merton Hall amounting to £87 and St. Andrew's Hall, amounting to £14 11s. The Committee agreed that the claims in respect the Castle Hotel and At Andrew's Hall be admitted and included in the next list of bills, and that the consideration for the claim in respect of Merton House be deferred pending the receipt of a further report thereon from the Borough Surveyor. 20 03 31 CIPof

1920 05 12

Women and degrees – syndicate appointed to consider whether they should be admitted to membership or how university could co-operate with the women's colleges, are unable to agree - CDN 20 05 12

1920 06 19

Undergraduate Princes go down - speeches [12.21]

1920 06 23

Undergraduates in evening dress & degree robes exercise their right to play marbles on steps of Senate House (follows TT article) Ch 20 06 23a, photo 23d [3.15,12.22]

1920 11 06

Guy Fawkes rag, no serious damage but several arrests; raid on New Theatre and siege of police station

1920 11 12

Armistice 'Rag', chariot of flame driven round Market Hill; siege of Newnham College, burst through gates where for half hour of bliss ... few odd battalions of infuriated Dons and hysterical Newnhamites, police charge 20 11 12

1920 11 17

'Chariot of fire' rag – cab soaked in petrol – Ch 20 11 17e, f, (repeated in 1921 when it collides with telephone kiosk)

1920 12 09

University reject admission of women by 192 votes - CDN 20 12 09

1921

Rags seemed to have reached climax after WWI, by 1920 "a new kind of misdirected energy, originality & daring is being poured into organising elaborate stunts, hoaxes & escapades; Michaelmas 1921 was great term for rags : Senate opened academic year by debating granting degrees for women; became political issue; first rag of burning gates of Newnham, then on voting day a colossal mock funeral for 'The death of the Varsity' with corpse of last male under-graduate being borne on a bier surrounded by aged mourners whose long grey beards dragged in dust; Armistice Day heralded by great Gun Day when German gun removed from Jesus college

1921 05 04

Cambridge University Pavement Club first meeting – undergraduate rag – 300 in KP; friend sausage and steak on Parker's Piece - photos – 21 05 04b, 21 05 11b

1921 10 26

University votes against women's degrees; undergraduate mock funeral – photos – 21 10 26b

1921 11 16

Jesus College large German gun trophy captured and transported to Caius College – 21 11 16d, 16e  
Armistice commemoration – photos – 21 11 16h  
Armistice night rag, students assault police; heavy fines – 21 11 16l

1921 11 26

First Poppy Day collection made on 26 November passed smoothly (not done by undergrads); undergrads asked that this collection be organised entirely by their committee & take full responsibility that no incidents. Procession of 'animals' toured town with police escort, one of happiest rags ever seen' [38]

1922 03 04

On strolling along Kings-parade this morning we saw a crowd of undergraduates. Mingling therewith we became aware of the presence of a number of cyclists accoutred with hockey sticks. We divined then that a bicycle polo stunt was about to be "stunted". In short, it was a stupendous scheme schemed for the laudable purpose of brightening Cambridge. We waited a short time. Then cheers burst forth and the game (?) commenced. After wielding their weapons vigorously for about five minutes and hitting the "pill" (i.e. a spotless tennis ball), the players raised their battered and war-worn cycles aloft and to the accompaniment of cheers bore them tenderly to a place of safety. Motor 'buses, cycles and handcarts were enabled to get through the press by the help of the police. Ardour became somewhat damped until the ball was arrested by the police, when cheers once more broke forth, but the ball was

remanded, and whence it flew we knew not. Thus ended the now customary end-of-term rag. Although not what it might have been it was amusing, which is one point in its favour 22 03 04

1922 03 25

There was issued yesterday the report of the Royal Commission on Oxford and Cambridge Universities. "We are unanimous in thinking" (says the Commissioners) "that ample facilities should be offered for the education of women. On the other hand we strongly desire that Cambridge should remain mainly and predominantly a men's university. To give a sense of security we consider that the number of women undergraduates should be 500, which would give a proportion of about one in each ten of the total number of undergraduates" 22 03 25

1922 04 21

Impressive scenes were witnessed at the funeral of an Indian undergraduate. The funeral was carried out according to the Mohammedan ritual, and the interment was at St Giles' cemetery, Huntingdon Road, Cambridge. The coffin was conveyed in a hearse and was followed on foot by over 50 Indian undergraduates. Arrived at the cemetery the coffin was placed on the lawn at the entrance. Then several of the mourners, removing their shoes, conducted a short form of service, after which the coffin and mourners were photographed by an Indian student. The body was carried to the graveside and lowered by a party of the mourners. Nobody who was not directly concerned with the ceremony was allowed within 25 yards of the grave 22 04 21

1922 06 13

"May week" has reached its second phase and the gaiety of the "Boats" has given places to a wonderful round of college balls and concerts. The May Week Ball of the First and Third Trinity Boat Clubs was probably one of the largest affairs of the kind that has ever been held in Cambridge. Hitherto, owing to a lack of accommodation the numbers attending has had to be restricted to about 650. Mr D.G. Marshall of Jesus Lane, however, found a way out of the difficulty with a somewhat novel scheme. A marquee 100 feet by 40 feet was erected on Market Hill facing the Guildhall and therein supper was laid. A delightfully cool effect was obtained by leaving open a part of the side of the tent nearest the fountain and having the fountain lit up with coloured electric lights in the background. Provision was made for some 1,100 guests and supper was served in three relays of 375 each, a special staff of chefs from the House of Commons was specially engaged for the occasion 22 06 13

1922 11 06

A lamp-boy, G.E.R. of Thoday street, Cambridge was summoned for throwing a firework on Senate House-hill on 4th inst. Fined 1s. Ten shillings was the fine imposed upon an undergraduate of Trinity College for a similar offence on Market-hill. Defendant said he did not know they were arresting people for letting fireworks off, or else he would not have been foot enough to do so in front of half the police force. An undergraduate of Corpus Christi who was fined 10s. stated that he came on to the square and saw a lot of police loafing about so he thought he would like to throw some fireworks 22 11 06

1922 11 13

If the Cambridge undergraduate can find any excuse for a "rag" he invariably organises a more or less elaborate affair. Yesterday's "circus" was a rag that everybody could enjoy; it did no harm to anybody and above all as a result of its labours aided Lord Haig's fund - "Poppy Day" - to the extent of £115 or thereabouts. The circus was a screamingly funny affair and brought everyone to doorways, windows and, in some cases, roof tops. The signal for the two minutes Armistice silence was heard in Downing-street and immediately the procession pulled up. The two minutes over pandemonium started as suddenly as it had ceased 22 11 13

1923 03

'Phineas' rag - Phineas, mascot seized – recalls Cambridge rag of March 1923 – 30 09 06a & b & photo – 30 09 06c

1923 06 12

The opening days of the second week of the "Mays" celebrations are usually noted for the array of college balls and concerts, and this year is well in keeping with tradition. On Monday there were three of these functions, - Caius, Clare, and First and Third Trinity in addition to four concerts and a special dinner-dance at the Rendezvous, and in each case a success can be recorded. The weather had improved to such an extent that it allowed the usual outdoor part of the events to be carried out to the full, and ample sitting out accommodation provided in various courts and grounds. The largest function was at Trinity, where the attendance numbered something like 1,400 or 1,500. 23 06 12

1923 11 06

Cambridge would be disappointed indeed if the Fifth of November failed to produce a rag of some sort. Last night's effort was, to say the least of it, feeble and was sustained for the most part by such residents of the town as come out for excitement on such occasions, and a handful of very callow freshmen. Fireworks there were in plenty, but the old spirit was lacking. Had it not been for the mounted police and the proctors, the market square would have been its usual desolate self soon after 9.30 pm. It was noticeable that as soon as the mounted police left the crowd decreased by 50 per cent.

1923 11 06

One hundred years ago the Royal and ancient game of rugby football was initiated, and today an alleged representation of the first game was given in Cambridge market square. Some time before noon the square was roped off and surrounded by police. The fountain was converted into a Royal box and the telephone kiosk into a press box. At noon the teams marched on to the ground. At their head was carried a large and considerably elongated football on a butchers tray. With the teams marched a portly and bearded Proctor, complete with "bullers" and a nasty looking birch, which he did not hesitate to use when occasion demanded

1923 11 10

The red poppy of Remembrance was everywhere in Cambridge today. Every buttonhole, every bicycle, and every motor car bore visible tribute to those who died that England might live. Everywhere were busy undergraduates smiling and pushing their business and selling red silk poppies in aid of the Earl Haig's Fund for ex-servicemen and their dependants. The average undergraduate loves to be "up and doing" and any way he can use his superfluous energy for a good cause appeals to him. In accordance with their usual custom the memorial at the General Post Office was decorated with a huge wreath of laurels and poppies

1923 11 12

A merry and light-hearted party of undergraduates, despite police vigilance, succeeded in obtaining their hearts desire - they manage to light a fire on market Hill. Certain of the undergraduate community attracted the attention of some constables to a gas lamp on the one corner of the square. They demonstrated a desire to figure on the charge sheet of the police court by the charmingly simple process of putting out the light. The police "fell for it" and kept watch on that particular part of the market place. Meanwhile another body of the faithful rushed on to the Market Hill with a rowing eight filled with petrol and had it alight before people realised what was towards.

1923 11 19

The Cambridge undergraduates have once more been the source of innocent amusement. The "rag" consisted in the purchase of one of the old four-wheeled tram cars that used in bygone days to be both a convenience and an adornment to the streets of Cambridge. On Saturday when it was expected that the tram would be towed in state through Cambridge streets the authorities were alarmed by the appearance of numbers undergraduates outside the yard where the tram was stored. At this moment another tram made its appearance, a tram of Lilliputian dimensions, towed with steady ropes by a happy band of undergraduates. The miniature car was solemnly dragged into the centre of town and along old tram lines, which have for many years or so useless a feature in King's Parade.

1924 11 06

The night of the 5th of November was clear and calm, and there was a bright moon to light the way of revellers – ideal conditions for a “rag”. So evidently thought a large crowd of undergraduates and townsmen that gathered on Cambridge Market Hill in hopes. Police stood around in little groups taking a giving chaff good humouredly with the crowd. Squibs and occasional small rockets broke the peace and were heralded by faint cheers and feminine shrieks if they happened to go off in the press. The first intimation of anything interesting was the sight of a small youth, pale and very troubled looking, marching up St Andrew’s street, firmly held by a constabulary hand 24 11 06

1924 11 09

Cambridge undergraduates were busy today selling poppies. They were stationed in the centre of the town and in all the main thoroughfares leading thereto. Among their number were several very persistent in their efforts and “held-up” anybody – pedestrian, cyclist or motorist – who was not wearing a poppy. By way of pushing business a group of undergraduates hired a donkey and barrow, attired themselves as costers – complete with “pearlies” and other effects and went around the town rattling money boxes 24 11 09

1925 02 10

Cambridge University Senate agreed that no member of the University shall be allowed to keep or use a motor car unless he obtained a licence through his college. If any tradesman or keeper of motor garage shall let out any motor car or motor cycle for hire to any person in statu pupillari he shall be liable to be discommuned. Anyone who houses upon his premises a motor vehicle on behalf of a member of the University must furnish a written description to the Junior Proctor 25 02 10 [11.11]

1925 02 14

Celebrating the Lent Races gave gownsmen the traditional excuse to break the bonds of conventional conduct and create some hectic scenes on Saturday night. From the viewpoint of roughness the ‘rag’ proved to be one of the worst during recent years, and the endeavours of the police to impose limitations on some of the more disorderly acts were not received with the good-natured co-operation which usually characterises such outbreaks. Besides having their helmet knocked off, several constables received nasty kicks about the legs and one was taken to Addenbrooke’s Hospital with injuries to the head 25 02 14

1925 03 09

The bright idea was to unveil a ‘statue’ of Eros on Cambridge Market Hill, but they did not appear till quite three-quarters of an hour late. The crowd got tired of waiting and certain of their number pelted some adventurous spirits perched on the Market cross with oranges, and this little incident led to a general exchange of soft and ‘squashy’ fruit. Oranges gave place to tomatoes, which were followed by eggs and bags of flour. Besides being unpleasant, practice of this sort is dangerous 25 03 09

1925 05 14

The minds of motoring undergraduates in the University are greatly perturbed over certain proposals which have been made for the total prohibition of motor vehicles by junior members. The proctors state that “a few undergraduates use their cars and motor cycles after dark to drive undesirable young women into the country and they consider it their duty to prevent them”. It is ridiculous for them to walk the streets after dark chasing pedestrian undergraduates for having no caps whilst boisterous merry-markers rush by in cars 25 05 14

1925 10 17

During the last few days undergraduates have been busy taking out licences for motor cars and motor cycles under the new regulations made with a view to decreasing the traffic in our narrow streets. Undergraduates are not allowed to use any motor vehicle before 12.30 in the morning or after 8.30 at night. An amusing rumour is that proctors are to patrol the streets in a motor car, followed by ‘bulldogs’ on motor cycles, but there is no necessity for such ‘flying squad’ methods as garages are to report any undergraduate who has his car out during the prohibited period 25 10 17

1925 11

Undergraduates take over sale of poppies [38]

1925 11 06

Cambridge usually expects a 'rag' on Guy Fawkes' night but this year's affair was of a harmless character, plenty of noise being the chief characteristic. Fireworks galore were discharged and the Market Hill was occasionally lit up with flame-coloured flares. But this was rather a tame sort of amusement for undergraduates and they proceeded to accomplish the now stale feat of extinguishing the gas lamps in the neighbourhood of the Hill. Some undergrads took it into their heads to relight the lamps in the centre, which enabled one of their number to climb the fountain on the top of which something indistinguishable was placed. This being done out went the lamps again, coins being the smashing factor once more.

1925 11 09 c

Three undergraduates were fined £2 each for extinguishing street lamps. James Haynes, a watchman said he saw the gentlemen approach Drummer Street. They overturned the brazier containing his fire and he had to put the fire out because the tar on the pavement commenced to flare. He saw them turn out the light of a lamp in Emmanuel Street. Two of them hoisted another up to do this. In Short Street they turned out three more lights and another five were turned out along Victoria Avenue.

1925 11 14

"We the undersigned, convinced that all disputes between nations are capable of settlement by diplomatic negotiation, hereby solemnly declare that we shall refuse to support or render war service to any Government which resorts to arms". The declaration having been signed by members of the University they called a public meeting. The hall was nearly filled with undergraduates but a section of the audience showed their displeasure by continual interruption. Mr G.L. Trevelyan spoke of the horrors to be met in the next war, and was greeted with the remark: "No they will kill us nice and cleanly in the next war".

1926 05 03

Cambridge had a Mock Funeral today, after a lapse of many years. Undergraduates, dressed in outrageous attire, paraded the streets of the town and marched to the station to observe "funeral obsequies" to two Trinity men who have been sent down for a breach of college discipline. The procession made its way to the college to collect the "corpses". On arrival however they found their unfortunate colleagues had made use of their newly-acquired wings and flown, but nothing daunted the party proceeded to the station headed by a drum-major and a figure in clerical attire. Amongst the occupants of the horse-drawn 'hearse' were two musical geniuses with a banjo and saxophone 26 05 03

1926 05 20

Cambridge court heard that when an undergraduate came to Magdalene College he brought with him a bay gelding, worth £200, which was placed in stables in Cambridge and hunted with the Cambs Hunt and the University Draghounds. In December an agreement was reached with the L.N.E.R. for the carriage of the horse to Berwickshire. During loading into the horsebox at the station it lurched forward, fell out and broke its spine 26 05 20

1926 05 24

An appeal for the modification of the ban on gramophone music has been addressed to the Vice Chancellor on behalf of a party of musical undergraduates. University orders forbid the playing of gramophones in punts on the river during the May terms and gramophone music has been banned from certain colleges altogether. "We have no wish to express any opinion upon the playing of jazz records but suggest the playing of good music, such as the London String Quartet, by students in their hours of relaxation on the river could do nothing but enhance the beauty of the surroundings and the taste of the modern young man", they say 26 05 24

1926 06 19

So far May Week has been a pale and melancholy ghost of its former self. What with the powerful counter-attraction of Ascot, the fact that a good many of the men have already “gone down”, the restricted train service and the gloomy uncertainty of the weather, Cambridge is having a bad time just now and tradesmen, hotel and lodging-house keepers, boat-proprietors and others who look to May Week to bring a little much-needed grist to their mill have received a severe blow. Usually May Week comes before Ascot, and visitors to the Mays have been accustomed to go from Cambridge to Ascot. Now that Ascot is over there seems to be no reason which the process should not be reversed 26 06 19

1926 10 30

How does the cost of living at Cambridge today compare with the pre-war days so far as an undergraduate is concerned? A writer in the Morning Post says “With an income of £210 a year, I went down at the end of my fourth year owing a year’s income; and my debts were accounted for by entertaining on a rather lavish scale during my last year. I know post-war undergraduates with an income of £250 who went down owing nothing.” He says that nowhere in the world has the cost of living risen less & adds that University expenses are surprisingly reasonable 26 10 30

1926 11 04

No little excitement was caused when an undergraduate, fully-clothed and wearing cap and gown, jumped off the Magdalene Bridge into the river, using an umbrella as a parachute. A film record of the exploit was taken by Lord Burghley, the famous athlete, who had his baby film camera mounted on the top of his motor car. The undergraduate, being hard up, had hit on this idea as a way of getting money and has netted enough to keep him for a week or two in pocket-money

1926 11 19

A Cambridge dispenser claimed he used drugs to make up “pick-me-ups” for undergraduates in the morning. The judge: “Do they require ‘pick-me-ups’ in the morning?” (Laughter.) “They do things now that we never thought of”. He made them up out of his head, usually mixing three tinctures. They were drunk in a wineglass of water. They were used every day during term time. The undergraduates looked something of a wreck in the morning and owed to having had a little refreshment at night. (Laughter.) 26 11 19

1927 02

Anti-feminist rag [3.18]

1927 02 25

“The first marriage according to the new Prayer Book” was solemnised in Cambridge when an undergraduate “bride” and “bridegroom” were joined together in unholy matrimony on King’s Parade. The blushing bride with the bowing bridegroom was preceded by a piper and a clergyman who was wearing “flannel bags” under his surplice and carried a doll’s sunshade. The bride’s dress was a pair of white lace curtains and she carried a large bouquet of Brussels sprouts. The bridegroom wore a dilapidated silk hat and a red nose – and carried a banana. They stepped into a waiting carriage followed by a motley throng of ludicrously attired “relations and friends 27 02 25

1927 06 09

Cambridge Undergraduates took upon themselves the duty of opening “Joanna Southcott’s” famous box on the Market Hill. A crowd of mammoth proportions assembled. A melancholy dirge was heard from Petty Cury and there appeared a party of pipers and following them in one of Dale’s lorries came a weird array of 24 “bishops” and a delegation of “Mormons” wearing huge straw sombreros. One “archbishop” proceeded to open the box, producing several layers of red tape, a teddy bear, a pair of old football boots and a number of bananas with which he pelted the crowd. The “rag” was organised to provide funds for the Cambridge Fruiting Campaign to help strawberry pickers in the Wisbech area. 27 06 09 [3.19]



1927 06 13

One of the largest crowds in memory witnessed the last of what may go down in history as the "Microphone Mays". Both banks of the Cam at Ditton presented the spectacle of an unbroken line of sightseers. There were three men up a tree at Ditton Paddock; they and their friend the microphone were telling all England what was happening and theirs was truly a romance of the tree tops. One wonders how many old Cambridge men were listening-in to a drama in which they once played a part.

27 06 13

1927 06 15

Three well-known Cambridge sportsmen who have completed their academic careers distinguished themselves by spending part of the night in the grounds of one of the women's colleges and part in another. At midnight on Saturday they climbed into Newnham, taking with them a tent which they pitched in full view and were not discovered until they were all snug in "bed", when they commenced community singing. Newnham Dons became alarmed and phoned for the police, who turned them out. They then motored to Girton, scaled a twelve-foot wall and pitched the tent. They were not discovered until the early hours of the morning when the earliest risers amongst the lady students saw the strange sight in the middle of the court.

27 06 15

1927 11 11

Poppies! They were everywhere. The streets of Cambridge were ablaze with them. They were on every coat, in every conscience. Their spirit turned the town into a red riot of remembrance. As the day wore on the poppies grew thicker. A great army of 2,000 undergraduates sold the emblems with an enthusiasm which was unbounded. Early in the morning they were at their posts with their trays of flowers and collecting boxes and all through the day carried on their merry money hunt. Many played the role of highwaymen, boarding buses and holding up the traffic.

1927 12 03

According to the Master of Balliol, not even a Scot can now manage in Oxford on less than £200 a year unless he had not enough to eat. But £250 should suffice for anybody. One undergraduate thinks a man can do "fairly comfortably" on £300 a year, providing he had not expensive tastes. A Cambridge Fresher says he has spent £150 on college bills, £30 on furniture, clubs £16, clothes £30, books £13, tips £15, gate fines £2 this term. If he goes on at the same rate for the next two terms he is in for an expensive first year!

27 12 03

1928 03 10

An inquest into the death of a student at Emmanuel College, Cambridge, was told he had been attending a meeting of the Twelfth Club, a literary society which held a dinner once a year. Afterwards he went to a student's room and whiskeys and soda went round in the ordinary way. He was a scholar of great promise and it was to be regretted that someone out of youthful folly had filled his glass with neat whisky. He had slipped down in one of the courts sustaining severe injuries. It was quite possible that the fresh air affected him.

28 03 10

1928 11 10

Soon after daybreak the advance guard of the thousand undergraduate poppy sellers sallied forth to all quarters of Cambridge, determined to beat the record figures reached last year. The warmth of their enthusiasm was sufficient protection against the keen frosty air, and scorning overcoats they patrolled the lonely streets and waylaid those hurrying to business. They were so cheerfully importunate that only a modern Scrooge could have refused them and most people seemed only too willing to pay off another small instalment of their war debt.

1928 11 10 c

Carnival conditions prevailed in Cambridge where the poppy-decked shoppers met amusing spectacles on all hands. On no previous poppy day has undergraduate ingenuity been so fertile. Chief among the many attractive schemes for money squeezing was "Banger's Circus" in which an unidentifiable animal with 'flannel bag' legs, and a monkey led on a chain by a top-hatted ringmaster

were noticeable. The procession was disorganised when the monkey developed a thirst and dashed into the Angel, dragging the not-unwilling circus master with him

1928 12 08

Sir – Undergraduate fashions have changed since I came up to Cambridge in 1877. I never saw an undergraduate wearing knickerbockers nor carrying an umbrella and on our heads we had to wear hard felt hats when not wearing cap and gown, winter and summer. Perhaps half a dozen men would venture out wearing straw hats but they were spoken of as ‘snugs’ – strange and weird people. Of course straws were worn by men who had gained a place in their college boats and was part of the rowing costume, but not worn in the streets. We all had to look smart and well-dressed, with no slouching about with hands in trouser pockets. What a change! – Senex 28 12 08

1929 03 13

The University Proctors have considered regulations for students who desire to use aircraft during term time. Undergraduates flying their own or civilian aircraft may lead to annoyance from low flying and accidents. A Light Aeroplane Club has already been formed which gives facilities for flying within a few miles of the University. Now no student may fly as pilot or passenger during term time without written permission from his parents and tutor. Those offending will be liable to be punished by suspension, rustication, expulsion or otherwise. 29 03 13

1929 03 15

A Cambridge undergraduate was fined for an assault on a taxicab driver who attempted to push him off the running-board of a stationary cab. It took place after a bump supper when he was in a very excited condition. Robert Osborne said he went to the ADC Theatre and left his cab on the rank on Jesus Lane. The undergrad and others came along the road and turned the starting handle of the taxis. He jumped on his running-board and would not get off, so he pushed him off. The lad then hit him several times. 29 03 15

1929 04 22

Cambridge undergraduate eloped with heiress 29 04 22

1929 11 06

Nearly thirty arrests were made during a Guy Fawkes ‘Rag’ on Cambridge Market Hill. Early in the evening an attempt was made to light a bonfire in Petty Cury and there was a considerable blaze in front of Falcon Yard before the police noticed it and it was extinguished. In Rose Crescent an effigy was soaked with petrol, stuffed with fireworks and deposited near the Market Hill end. This was quickly extinguished and the effigy confiscated, but the petrol continued to burn for a long time afterwards. A new feature of the scimmages was the use of police whistles by undergraduates which added to the confusion.

1929 11 07

A sheep farmer, who became annoyed on Guy Fawkes Night at being mistaken for an undergraduate, was summonsed for assaulting the Senior Proctor, Mr Frederick Dykes. He testified that he had been with his constables when he sent one after an undergraduate who attempted to evade him. He then heard a shout of ‘Get the Proctor’ and felt two blows on his head. One of his constables seized the man now in the dock. Defendant said he was a stranger to Cambridge and had been told that if he followed the proctors round he would see some fun. He was not dressed like an undergraduate. He was fined £3. 29 11 07

1929 11 16

The best-dressed sections of the University undergraduates are wearing more whole suits – as compared with the single jacket and flannel trousers. The plus four suits are made up in quiet materials and the knickerbockers are cut medium both in width and length. A pinkish brown colour is likely to prove a fashionable sports suiting. Restraint is the principle determining everything from

lounge suits to socks. All the best tailoring shops are making overcoats and golf jackets in camel and llama pile and undergraduates are accepting the vogue with enthusiasm. Cambridge is better dressed than ever. Gone is the sloppiness that at one time was regarded as smart. CDN 16.11.1929

1929 11 27

Women students packed the gallery at the Cambridge Union Society when a motion supporting full University rights for women was carried. A sensation was caused before the debate when it was proposed that in view of the importance of the issue involved the gallery should be cleared but the President ruled that this would cause too much disturbance. Women students lived under a code of rules that could only be described as fatuous; one of the women's colleges allowed its students to go unchaperoned to King's Chapel, but to no other. Girton allowed them to go to the theatre 'provided the party was of reasonable size', whilst Newnham were permitted provided the party 'was not of unreasonable size' (laughter) CDN 27.11.1929

**1930**

1930 05 26

A mock funeral procession paraded through Cambridge as undergraduates bade farewell to one of their number who had been sent down. It was headed by an old horse-drawn landau in which the 'corpse' sat, his face disguised beneath a war-paint of lipstick. He was joined by various persons who were to officiate at the ceremony; beneath top hats, black cloches and wideawakes were suits of grey flannel, blazers and plus-fours. All were garnished in crepe streamers on which hung rhubarb, beer and wine bottles, remains of the 'wake'. At the station the funereal party moved along the platform hilariously singing a dirge and the 'corpse' was installed in a third-class compartment where gifts of fruit and rhubarb were handed solemnly in. 30 05 26

1930 06 10

Cambridge is a lurid place – according to the 'Daily Herald'. Days are spent in drunken dissipation, commencing with a champagne breakfast at 11.30 a.m. or later. At night bands of students invade the peaceful rusticity of the county in motor cars and on cycles causing general annoyance. Villagers have set up their own 'defence committee' – a determined band of sturdy young men who will be quick to stop misbehaviour. But a resident tells me "I have heard of the Flower Show Committee but a Defence Committee is news to me" 30 06 10a

1930 06 17

All records were broken at Trinity ball when 1,700 guests attended the most brilliant of the May Week functions. Many townspeople waited to see the guests arrive and crowds flocked to Garret Hostel Bridge to view the grounds in all their evening glory. Up to mid-day next morning occasional stragglers, heavy-eyed but cheerful could be seen walking driving about the town. One such pair were mutually photographed beside their car in Silver Street. Sports coats over white waistcoats were common and in one a dishevelled figure in a flannel dressing gown lolled at the wheel, like a character in a Edgar Wallace film. 30 06 17a

1930 07 05

The policy of building more rooms in college and drawing in as many men from the lodging houses is creating a serious outlook for the lodging-house keepers. Many have been told their rooms will not be required next term. If the University cannot continue to utilise services which came into existence to serve their needs some then other employment will be needed. If the University ceases to provide adequate support Cambridge will have no alternative but to seek other means of livelihood. We will be loath to see the town industrialised but people must live. 30 07 05b

1930 07 12

General regulations affecting the use of motor vehicles first-year men are already in force but in view of the numerous road fatalities last term much more stringent bans will be in operation next year. Clare College says that the possession of motor cars and motor bicycles prevent undergraduates from

making the best use of their residence in Cambridge and none of its students will be allowed to bring or drive a motor vehicle. Cars must be kept in a public garage or in one of the college garages on Castle Hill. 30 07 12a

1930 11 06

Cambridge police had cold feet with waiting for something to turn up in a temperature several degrees under freezing point. But the dreaded 'Fifth', that traditional battle between University and police failed to explode in the time-honoured fashion. There was a constant bombardment on the outskirts of town and some spasmodic firework throwing on the market where smoke screens were used to some effect. Using the cloud as cover two lamps were extinguished under the very nose of a sergeant. There were a few arrests but no helmets were knocked off. 30 11 06b

1930 11 11

Poppy Day rag – 30 11 11e-g

1933 11 06

Bonfire night demonstration & Hitler Nazi meeting – 33 11 06

1930 11 11

Poppy Day rag – 30 11 11e-g

1931 11 13

The Poppy Day collection in Cambridge has again smashed all records with undergraduate collectors struggling with money still coming in. Nearly two tons of coppers have passed through their hands. Early in the day the stock of poppies was exhausted and a fresh supply had to be brought in by train. Market Hill was the scene of half-a-dozen well organised 'rags' and at Silver Street the Demon Diver jumped in flames into the river and the collectors drew in good sums for his 'widow' and 'children' 31 11 13 I & j

1931

*Varsity* launched 1931 intention to revel in vulgar affluence, until start WWII becoming *Varsity Weekly* & then *Cambridge Varsity Post* it fostered image of Cambridge good-life [45]

1931

First meeting Cambridge Socialist Society 'solid band of presumably Tory undergraduates at back of hall began to shout, heckle & sing patriotic songs', police called, threw stink bombs [45]

1931 02 27

Over 100 attended a funeral service for a young Freshman whose mysterious death has caused such a sensation throughout the country. Press and public were excluded but a crowd gathered and police had some difficulty in controlling the traffic. He had been found lying dead on the floor of his room, gagged and bound in an elaborate manner with numerous handkerchiefs, a length of puttee, and a wire flex. Members of the Pentacle Club, the University Magicians' Society have been interrogated & Sir Bernard Spilsbury, the famous Home Office pathologist has been called in. 31 02 27d-g-h

1931 03 06

Sidney Sussex student death verdict 31 03 06f –h

1931 06 12

A Cambridge motor firm – W.E. Harding of Seven Sisters garage, Newmarket Road – has been barred from trading with undergraduates by the Vice Chancellor. Under university rules tradesmen must notify tutors by the end of term of any debt exceeding £5 incurred by an undergraduate. But Mr Harding had not been told this. Only two other such notices have appeared within living memory. Now any student having any dealings with the firm may be suspended or rusticated. 31 06 12b

1931 07 17

An undergraduate rag in celebration of examination success let to two young army officers appearing in court charged with the theft of coloured lenses and other fittings belonging to traffic lights on the corner of Lensfield Road. They were of no conceivable value except as a trophy. One was the son of a distinguished soldier in the Coldstream Guards killed at Arras during the war. If convicted it would have a grave effect on his army career. The case was dismissed. 31 07 17b & c

1931 11 13

The Poppy Day collection in Cambridge has again smashed all records with undergraduate collectors struggling with money still coming in. Nearly two tons of coppers have passed through their hands. Early in the day the stock of poppies was exhausted and a fresh supply had to be brought in by train. Market Hill was the scene of half-a-dozen well organised 'rags' and at Silver Street the Demon Diver jumped in flames into the river and the collectors drew in good sums for his 'widow' and 'children' 31 11 13i & j

1931 12 04

A Trinity Hall undergraduate appeared in court following a collision. Students were not allowed to have motorcars and he was endeavouring to leave Cambridge without being seen, but had an accident in Coleridge Road and failed to stop. A number plate was knocked from his car and by that means the driver was traced. As a result he had been sent down for good. He did not think the penalty would have been so severe. 31 12 04d

1932 05 18

Overnight two unfurled umbrellas were securely tied to the pinnacles of King's College chapel so they stood straight up. The college called a window cleaner to remove them, but despite his long ladder he was unable to get within ten feet. Two undergraduates went on the roof with shotguns and endeavoured to shoot them down. One fell but the other proved more difficult. The shots knocked the handle sideways. For some hours it floated gracefully from side to side in the wind like some gigantic weathercock. 32 05 18

1932 05 21

What would papers do without Cambridge undergraduates' pranks? During a hard frost years ago some 150 callow youths had a 'curling' bonspiel on the pond at Emmanuel College. Each had a china bowl in lieu of the orthodox curling stone – and each bowl contained a lighted candle. Overnight a thaw set in and visitors watched gardeners salvaging the 'curling stones' from the bottom of the pond. Shortly afterwards undergraduates took a donkey dressed in cap and gown into dinner in hall. Most of the aged dons mistook him for one of themselves! But in those days no newspaper commented. 32 05 21a

1932 05 21

The inner history of the King's College roof-climbing escapade has been revealed. The hazardous feat was carried out by two parties of undergraduates, including several well known athletes, who are members of a secret organisation composed of skilled mountain climbers. They used the lightning conductor which has been loosened by previous generations of climbers. It is the climax of a series of climbs during the past few months; now they proposed to publish detailed accounts of their exploits 32 05 21

1932 05 24

Night-climbers Kings chapel & Eton – 32 05 24

1932 05 25

'Varsity Weekly', an undergraduate newspaper conducted on sensational lines, claimed that errand boys had been sumptuously entertained by members of the University in rooms in Trinity Street. As a result the writer was challenged to a duel. But police were waiting outside Girton College when a car

drew up early in the morning. Inside they found three fencing epees with their protective buttons cut off and the points filed down to needle sharpness. 32 05 25b

1932 06 01

The 'Brighter Roofs for Colleges' movement is growing. Overnight at Ridley Hall two cords were stretched from one of the college towers. On them pyjamas, pyjamas and still more pyjamas were floating in the wind. Large ones, small ones, brightly-coloured and silk examples were proudly swaying in the breeze and in the middle was suspended a parson's hat. After they had been lowered to the ground their various owners joined in a frantic scramble for their particular pairs which had been removed from their rooms. 32 06 01a

1932 06 02

King's nightclimbing – broolly removed – 32 06 02

1932 06 06

Nightclimbing craze spreads to Emmanuel – 32 06 06d

1932 06 17

A Cambridge doctor claimed payment from an undergraduate for a course of sun ray treatment. He sent his account to the college but the tutor had not been told the student had been ill and queried the charge. When undergraduates are going down it is extremely difficult, if not impossible to get them to pay their bills, he lost more from undergraduates than any other kind of patients, the doctor complained. 32 06 17 c& d

1932 11 04

The vast majority of undergraduates come up to Cambridge to work; hardly anybody fails to take a degree of some sort, and about 60 per cent take an Honours degree, T.W. Blackwell, a third-year student of Magdalene, told Cambridge Rotary Club. The average undergraduate driver compares favourably with the drivers of those buses which charge down the street, scattering everyone before them, while the complaint that students never pay their tradesmen's bills is as biased as saying that shopkeepers doubled their prices at the beginning of term. 32 11 04c & d

1933 06 08

A Newnham College student was summoned for dangerous flying. Mary Barnard said she had taken off from Marshall's flying school on a solo flight and descended to 1,000 feet over her College. But Dr John Bury, who had flown for five years, said she had descended rather rapidly, then flattened out and crossed Corpus Christi gardens at about 600 feet, he could read the letters on the plane quite clearly. As it was the first prosecution of its kind the magistrates decided to dismiss the case with a caution. 33 06 08a

1933 06 12

Saturday was one of the quietest bump supper nights on record. A few blazered undergraduates wearing dress shirts roamed the streets and occasionally a cheer could be heard. Then there was a squad of those who went through various drill movements, using the pavement as a parade ground. But they were remarkably steady, and mild, possibly because the bump-supper beer was likewise! A constable remarked, "Sid Moon (the News cartoonist) should draw a cartoon of an empty Market Hill with a yawning policeman, because that all there's doing tonight" 33 06 12a

1933 06 13

The roof-climber who 'pinched' the two weathervanes off the Squire Law Library building seems to have had an attack of conscience, for the missing cock and fish were replaced last night. But they also left tasteful decorations and souvenirs in the shape of two sherry bottles at each end of an arch high over the entrance to the Geological Museum. They are said to be full and so act as 'bait' to other scalers of walls and roofs. 33 06 13

1933 06 13

Over 1,300 dancers disported themselves at the First and Third Trinity Boat Club's ball. As usual there were large crowds of spectators lining all the entrances and not a few on the river but great precautions had been taken to avoid gate crashing with two lots of 'sentries'. Inside the place was aglow with thousands of coloured lights while the dance tent itself, with its famous parquet floor, was electrically lit. From a dais in the centre the Embassy band played a sweet programme of dance music until the early hours of the morning. 33 06 13b

1933 06 13

The roof-climber who 'pinched' the two weathervanes off the Squire Law Library building seems to have had an attack of conscience, for the missing cock and fish were replaced last night. But they also left tasteful decorations and souvenirs in the shape of two sherry bottles at each end of an arch high over the entrance to the Geological Museum. They are said to be full and so act as 'bait' to other scalers of walls and roofs. 33 06 13

1933 10 09

The greater part of the undergraduate population is now in residence and the Dorothy café is once again thronged with young men over the tea hour. The prevailing fashion is to wear striking sports jackets with the proverbial flannel trousers and hats but the new arrivals, despite every effort to appear 'old hands' generally reveal their 'freshness' by walking about in their gowns. 33 10 09

1933 11 10

The film 'Our Fighting Navy' has been withdrawn from the Tivoli Cinema following lively scenes. Fifty members of the Students' Anti-War went to make a protest but a rival party, numbering about a thousand undergraduates, marched to the cinema with two bands playing war-time songs and carrying Union Jacks. Several tried to push their way in until the arrival of four policemen who, with drawn truncheons, managed to keep the crowd at bay whilst a dozen more raced to the scene in motor vehicles. Cries of 'Down with Hitler' and 'Hail Hitler' were heard above the general uproar and a stink bomb let off in the vestibule 33 11 10

1934 02 22

Trinity College was the venue of a carefully-planned 'rag' involving a large number of fireworks. The roof was chosen as the main display ground. The first rocket went up and landed in Neville's court before all sorts of fireworks went off in rapid succession, including a couple on the two turrets of the Great Gate. Next day porters were trying to identify the owner of a walking stick on which a Catharine wheel had been fixed. 34 02 22

1934 03 05

A Cambridge police constable was injured during the 'rag' which followed the inter-college rugby cup final between Clare and St Catharine's. At Burrell's Walk undergraduates used wooden palisades to make a bonfire. The fire engine was called out but was surrounded by a crowd of students some of whom pulled the hose off the drum. Others clambered on to the engine and took the front and side lamps off. The fire was put out by college porters. In Queen's Road the police were forced to defend themselves. Truncheons were used to prevent their helmets being snatched off. There was some hard fighting. A number of street lamps were broken and a window was smashed in King's Parade. Two undergraduates were arrested, charged with assaulting the police 34 03 05

1934 06 09

"True Blue" club requires candidate to drink 1© glasses of claret in 20 seconds [1.18]

1934 06 15

A student, Cecil Hutchinson, made a dramatic race against time to attend the Cambridge Entrance Examination. He docked at Cherbourg early today on the Olympic on which he had travelled from New York, then chartered an Imperial Airways taxi which arrived at Croydon at 8.45. After snatching

a hasty breakfast he flew on the Cambridge where he arrived a few minutes before the examination was due to start. The ship had decided in mid Atlantic not to dock at Plymouth, from which he had arranged to travel by train, so he cabled his father who arranged the air taxi. 34 06 15

1934 11 06

Cambridge saw one of the most riotous celebrations of the 'Fifth' for many years. In the course of demonstrations around Market Hill nearly 40 arrests were made, many of the police lost their helmets, several more had their tunics ripped right down the back and not a few sustained split knuckles and bruises. When supplies of fireworks began to run low parties of undergraduates attempted to put out every light but carried their efforts too far and smashed the glass of two shop windows and the traffic signal at the top of Petty Cury. There were 35 defendants including seven for assaults on the police, three for resisting the police a number for obstructing the police. Other summonses were for extinguishing street lamps and throwing fireworks. A Trinity undergraduate was fined for 'tipping' a policeman's helmet. Several times during the hearing there were outbursts of laughter. 34 11 06a & b

1934 11 10

Poppy Day collectors had to contend with a dismal downpour of rain. But a large crowd gathered on Senate House Hill to await the arrival of a self-styled 'Hitler' who was due to open the Caius Fun Fair. When he did come, by car, he brought a procession of about a dozen cars in his wake, all containing weird and wonderful characters. The obstinate mule, which last year lay down in the road and refused to get up until tempted by a coin, was less obstinate on the present occasion, for the wet and muddy road was hardly a pleasant bed. 34 11 10 & a

1935 06 18

May Week entered its ballroom phase with the twinkle of fairy lights and the dazzle of evening frocks. The biggest ball was that arranged by the First and Third Trinity Boat Club which was attended by 1,200 people. The flood-lit bridge stood out pearly white against the shadowy outlines of college buildings and hundreds of fairy lanterns made a necklace of living fire round the lawns of the Backs while Chinese lanterns hung in the trees along with coloured light indicators which showed the number of the dance in progress. Here and there a brazier gleamed dully, spitting steam in protest against the rain which sought to dampen their fire. 35 06 18

1936 02 06

The Cambridge University Mummers, who are still the only University Dramatic Society to admit women members equally with men in all their activities, are presenting 'Heartbreak House' by Bernard Shaw. In the cast there are four members of Newnham, the most prominent of whom is Miss Teresa Mayor. She will be supported by Beryl Eeman, Cecilia Hopkinson and Deirdre Moore. The play will be produced by George Rylands who is well known for productions at the A.D.C. 36 02 06a

1936 06 24

Burning the boat at Jesus College following success at Lent Race – photo – 36 02 24

1937 06 16

At King's college May ball over 400 guests assembled to dance and make merry. It was a pity the night was not warmer but even so quite a few ventured on the river or wandered into the darkness to admire the scene from afar. The chapel was floodlit – though not with that subtlety one might have desired – and the college hall presented a gala atmosphere, contrasting with its customary sombre appearance. There was dancing to novelties such as the 'Lambeth Walk', fox-trots like 'The Loveliness of You' and a Noel Coward waltz. 38 06 16

1938 11 11

Undergraduates invaded the streets, skilfully extracting all the spare coppers with various ingenious stunts. In white sweaters and kilts of many clans the University Pipe Band paraded to Market Square for a display of Highland dancing, then toured public houses. The 'Peace Group' were perched on a cart disguised as a camouflaged tank decorated with "Atlee's pants" – which appeared to be pale pink



in colour. Standing on the tank were two dictatorial-looking figures in uniform. Amongst the individual performers was a man on a pair of stilts made from skulls while barrel-organ players were dressed as ghosts 38 11 11

1939 06 13

The weather was unreasonably dull for the annual First and Third Trinity Boat Club's Ball and rain meant that the delightful after-dance wandering over the grass was only indulged by the less cautious. Most welcome were the braziers delivering heat to shivering bodies. In the blue-and-white marquee Joe Loss and his dance orchestra reigned supreme playing the 'Eton Boating Song', 'Jeepers Creepers' and other dances. There were three suppers and the dance ended at 6 o'clock with a photograph. Amongst those present were M. Swithinbank, J.C. Balfour and the Earl of Euston. 39 06 13a

1939 11 11

Set against the tragic background of a new war, Poppy Day in Cambridge presented a much more subdued scene. The war-wrought necessity of avoiding large gatherings of crowds and the blocking of streets considerably curtailed the undergraduates' carnival-light activity. Decorated vehicles had been banned. The German Chancellor was the favourite target for shafts of wit and the Cosmopolitan Cinema advertising vehicles offered an invitation to 'Beat up Hitler' by piercing a pip with a dart. 39 11 11a

1935 02 25

Cambridge met Oxford in the spirit of peace, not of semi-lethal combat. The ceremony took place near the pump on the green at Sherington, Buckinghamshire, exactly half-way between the two universities. Two morning-coated representatives vied in the vehemence of their protestations of fraternal feeling and in the sartorial elegance of their attire. Then to the whirr of newsreel cameras they buried a hatchet beneath the pump. Afterwards a village worthy who had forgotten his tie, collar, shaving water and washing water in the excitement of the morning, came up to the immaculately attired Master of Ceremonies, thanking him putting Sherington on the map. 35 02 25a & b

1935 08 03

Tops removed from new Belisha Beacons after Bumps supper [1.22]

1935 11 06

Guy Fawkes – traditional rag, few arrests – 35 11 06b

1936 02 25

An undergraduate was discovered with his head terribly injured on King's Parade at midnight. He was removed to a nursing home in the police ambulance but died on the way. He had apparently fallen from the fourth-floor window of the house where he lodged and was dressed only in pyjamas, coat and socks. His landlady found the door of his room sealed up with adhesive tape and there was a smell of gas. A sealed letter was found. 36 02 25

1936 03 14

Undergraduates last night hazardously climbed to the roof of Emmanuel College North Court and decorated six chimneys with chamber pots. They were removed by Mr S. Burgess of Messrs Prime's the builders who is often called in to remove various objects placed in inaccessible positions by exuberant undergraduates. "Some of them can run up brick walls", he said: one took off his shoes and went down a wall by means of his feet and hands alone to remove a gown that had been placed in a particularly difficult spot. 36 03 14

1936 05 05

Undergraduates, tired of their boring existence at the University, found a new way of letting off their spirits. A party 'invaded' the fair on Midsummer Common and obtained permission from the proprietor of the Wall of Death to give a display. Two mounted on motor cycles and the others on

bicycles then gave a short show with plenty of impromptu thrills and spills. Fortunately no proctors appeared on the scene. 36 05 05a

1936 11 02

Undergraduates demonstrated support for 130 hunger marchers from Durham on their way to London to protest against the Means Test and new scales of benefit. At Girton College girl students served them tea and buns before 250 undergraduates joined the procession carrying torches and banners. There were meetings in the Co-operative and Labour Halls before the protestors had an evening meal in the students' rooms. At Cheshunt College some of the marchers ate in hall. Having slept in the Corn Exchange they continued to Saffron Walden where the Labour Party entertained them with lively tunes from a loudspeaker van. The march is due to arrive in London next weekend. 36 11 02 & a

1936 11 06

Guy Fawkes Night disorder, truncheon charges, riotous scenes – court case – 36 11 06

1937

*Union carry motion of No Confidence in His Majesty's government. 'Refuse to fight for any other nation in any war ... shall always be prepared to die if need be for King & Country but for nobody and nothing else' but soon concerned that neighbours fowls being eaten that ours are safe [45]*

1937 10 02

'The Harassed Harrises', a play by local author Gerald Light, features a father who keeps a fried fish shop in a town that is obviously Cambridge. His son, a young man of brains, has won a scholarship to the university but feels he is looked down on because of his father's job. What makes things even more awkward is that his aunt is a bedder at his college who is very fond of whisky. Without a doubt the play was greatly appreciated by the audience at the performance given by the CUP Amateur Dramatic Society 37 10 02

1937 11 06

The treat of severe action had a salutary effect on Cambridge undergraduates during the 'Fifth' celebrations. Last year a number of students were rusticated and others heavily fined by Borough justices. The Gas Company surrounded their lamp posts with barbed wire and fitted specially toughened glass over the actual light. Although a number of the taller standards were clambered up in every case the mountaineers had to return baffled. Not a light was extinguished. However two bus windows were broken with bricks and a pane of glass in a telephone kiosk was smashed. Photographers who used flashlights to take pictures had to retire in face of a barrage of missiles. Police arrested a woman but no serious attempt was made to rescue her. 37 11 06

1938

*Union meeting strongly against conscription but within year Churchill meeting had overwhelming supported it [45]*

1939 12 01

Poppy Day total is now £2,328 14s. The exceptional circumstances last year produced a sum of about £2,819, but the 1939 total is already near the £2,382 collected in 1937 and the £2,452 collected in 1936. Pembroke heads the list of individual college collections with a sum of £223 - £80 more than the runner-up, Christ's. 39 12 01 CIP0f

**1940**

1940 01

Woolwich & Sandhurst closed, students come to Cambridge, Latin & Greek dispensed with, for first time are members of University who have never studied a word of Latin in their lives [4.13]

1940 05 31

Easter Term comes to abrupt end with Dunkirk evacuation [4.14]

1941 09 06

King Peter of Yugoslavia at Clare - first time a reigning monarch at university [2.9]

1942 08 01

Recent raid damage at Cambridge: bombs on Union Society; debating hall escapes; flying at less than a hundred feet and in full view of many people a German raider dropped HE and incendiary bombs. Main damage was done to the library, writing room, committee room and the lounge. Masonry which was flung about by the explosion burst through the roofs and all the windows at the front of the premises and overlooking Round Church Street were blown out. The debating hall was only very slightly damaged and that mostly by water. The end of the library received a direct hit from a small high explosive bomb and several fire bombs but the steel stacks in which the books were housed saved them from the effect of the blast. The collection of music books were lost. One stained glass window of the Round Church was blown in, otherwise the church escaped – 42 08 01, 42 08 01a [raid was July 23<sup>rd</sup>]

1942 09 17

Punts and canoes placed on NFS reservoir on lawn in front of King's – photo – 42 09 17a

1943 05 01

Announcement that undergraduates need not in future wear caps with their gowns on academical occasions is no surprise. For some time there has been trouble in getting material – 43 05 01 [2.10]

1944 11

November 5<sup>th</sup> falls on Sunday, plans for Rag opposed [1.9]

1944 11 08

Bonfire Night rag protests – 44 11 08 & a, b

1945 11 06

First peacetime 'Fifth' rag, street lights extinguished, attack on 'Bull', Regal stormed – CDN 1945 11 06

1946 12 04

'Foot-the-ball' match as part of best rag for years – 46 12 04, 04a

1947 11 08

Poppy Day rag, p5

1946 07 19

Undergraduates under 22 banned for keeping a motor vehicle within 25 miles Gt St Mary's if proposals accepted; those eligible to drive will need licence from Proctor – 46 07 19

1947 06 11

The revival of May Week Balls in something of their full glory brings back to Cambridge something of the spirit of gaiety and colour which we knew before the war and which is now more than ever welcomed as much by townsfolk as by members of the University. The courts of Trinity presented a fairyland-like appearance with its lantern lit cloisters which were also decorated with palms. At Clare

College the dining hall was used for dancing to the melodies of Tommy Kinsman's Band from London. Cyril Stapleton and his band provided the music for dancing at Downing College 47 06 11

1947 10 11

There will be a warm welcome for "Varsity Handbook", the Undergraduate's Guide to Cambridge, produced and published by "Varsity". This is a brand new publication, printed on good paper and contains a mass of information of interest and value to University men. Much of the material has never been collected before. For the first time, for instance, a full detailed list of the 180 odd University societies is published. And then "One Man's Opinion" contains some frank advice - possibly a little too frank - for the Freshman on a variety of matters 47 10 11

1947 11 06

Six undergraduates and two RAF men were arrested during the usual Guy Fawkes Night scenes in the centre of Cambridge last night. From 7.30 crowds grew steadily on Market Hill. Fireworks were discharged freely and the din reached its peak between eight and half-past. Members of the University who earlier had been outnumbered by more than ten to one were in force by nine o'clock, several minor scuffles occurred about this time, and the first of several policemen's helmets disappeared. Proctors and their "bulldogs" early kept undergraduates on the move. After that the crowd gradually thinned away, and by 1.15 there were only groups here and there c47 11 06

1947 12 08

The word "Placet" (Latin for "It pleases") said by the Senior and Junior Proctors in unison as they raised their caps concluded the less-than-a-minute-long part of the Congregation in Cambridge Senate House by which it was formally agreed that women should have full status within the University. A handful of women students, undergraduates and other visitors in the gallery heard the decision made. It is planned that the new regulations shall come into force at the beginning of the next academic year in October; they will come under Proctorial supervision and will wear academic dress - 47 12 08 [2.14,2.21,5.3, 8.24]

1948 05 05

The women students of Newnham and Girton will emerge in their New Look in the October term. The gowns which their full University status now entitles them to wear have now been designed, and are on sale at £3 3s. each, no coupons. They are identical with those of the men, except that they have closed sleeves instead of a slit at the opening. This is because it was felt it would be unsuitable to have bare arms showing in summer time, when the girls wear short sleeved dresses. As far as headwear is concerned stiff board was preferred to a soft cap, and squares have been decided upon. These are still in such short supply that most girls will, like the men, go bareheaded for the moment 48 05 05

1948 10 21

When the Queen stood before the Vice Chancellor in Cambridge Senate House today to receive the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Law she was not only a Queen receiving an Honour but also a symbol of the passing of a 700-years-old "tradition" in the university. For, during the whole of the University's history no Queen - and no other woman - has ever before had a degree conferred upon her, because until the recent changes in the statutes giving women full membership the conferring of such an honour was not possible. As the Queen entered the Senate House there was a burst of cheering and clapping. Her scarlet Doctor's robes and her black velvet doctor's cap, made a charming ensemble with the Cambridge blue shade of her dress. As the Queen left Girton College yesterday evening, following her visit there, many students gathered in the drive made appropriate if unorthodox use of the gowns they now wear as symbols of their recently won rights to be full members of the University. They took off their gowns and waved them in farewell to the Royal lady, who in the morning had symbolised those new rights as she received in the Senate House the first degree to be conferred upon a woman in University history 48 10 21

1948 11 06

Cambridge's annual Guy Fawke's battle was waged in the market square and surrounding streets . Five undergraduates were amongst those who were arrested and placed in the Guildhall cells until being bailed. There were three charges of assaulting the police. Though a strong warning had been given by the university authorities there was considerable rowdyism. RAF men from nearby airfields and US service personnel were banned from Cambridge for the night. Ten people were taken to Addenbrooke's hospital having received slight injuries or fainted in the large crowds 48 11 06 Hand grenade thrown at Senate House on November 5<sup>th</sup>, damages glass [2.16,1.11]

1948 11 15

It really was women's day at the university Senate House on Saturday. Following the Queen's visit last month came the first historic degree ceremony to include women graduates. Previously they had held only the title of their degrees but now a decree has been passed admitting them to full membership they can proceed in person to take them. 114 were conferred in all. The recipients included a number who had left the colleges many years go - two from Girton had graduated in the 1890s. Side by side with them were young women who had graduated last year. All were enjoying the first fruits of a successful outcome of a struggle that had lasted 70 years

1948 11 17

Soon the sight of women students in their gowns and proceeding to degrees alongside the men, will become common place, and no one will give them a second thought. It is the "first time" however, which makes news and even the occasion of the first woman to be "progged" becomes a minor act of University history. Members of the colleges had awaited with interest to see on whom this "honour" would befall. Their curiosity was satisfied within three weeks of the beginning of term. The "honour" – said to have been coveted by a number of women students, who tried to attract the attention of the proctor – fell to a third-year anthropology student of Girton, Miss Valida Turner, who was fined for not wearing her gown after dark 48 11 17

1949 06 14

The May Balls have brought out a crop of new evening dresses. White, ideal for a summer dance was a favourite colour and diaphanous floating tulle tell to the fore as a material. I noticed several gaily striped or checked stiff taffetas, and a few with big flower patterns, but plain colours predominated. Tiered skirts – three or even four of five tiers – are back. One or two of the ladies had fringed, silk shawls, draped over their shoulders and I noticed one carrying a pink feather fan 49 06 14

1949 11 07

The quietest Guy Fawkes night "rag" long-service Cambridge police officers can remember passed off without even a street lamp being extinguished – another "within living memory" record. A crowd gathered on the Market Square by 7pm and fireworks were thrown. A police car which arrived on the scene radioed for reinforcements. These shepherded the crowd off the square. After that police posted at the entrances to the square prevented people entering the area. Early in the evening a few rotten eggs were thrown, and a smoke bomb exploded in the Sidney Street area. These incidents, and the intermittent throwing of fireworks, constituted about the only "excitement" of the evening, though there was an occasion when a "bulldog" pursued a man at full speed in front of the Guildhall 49 11 07

**1950**

1950 06 08

In the sweet perfection of a fine tuned evening on the Backs, a record crowd listened to what is surely the loveliest of all events of May Week, the programme of madrigals sung by the Cambridge University Madrigal Society from punts moored beneath King's Bridge. An audience estimated at between 7,000 and 8,000, lined both sides of the bank as the oppressive heat of the day became tempered by the cool of evening. Even the loud moo of a cow in the paddock failed to break the spell, nor did the faintly-threatening note of a high-flying bomber, reminder of the sterner world out of which the magic of the setting and the sweetness of the singing lifted the listening thousands 50 06 08

1950 06 13

The dusk-to-daylight part of Cambridge May Week festival began last night. For seven or eight hours several of the colleges put on over their grey stone a party dress of coloured lights and other decorations to welcome dancers at their May Week balls. At Downing scintillating fountains spraying sparks, gorgeous aerial cascades of magnificent colour, night turned to day by brilliant rich light, the whole punctuated by an obligato of crackles and bangs of varying volume made up the main framework of a memorable display. There were even “flying saucers” just to show that firework-makers move with the times 50 06 13

1950 11 06

Although four arrests – three townsmen and one undergraduate – were made, Guy Fawkes night this year was about the quietest since the war. Undergraduates were not as lively as in years past. The reason for the lack of activity on their part was probably the fact that they had been warned verbally by their tutors. Just to make sure seven watchful Proctors with their top-hatted ‘bulldogs’ maintained a constant patrol of the main streets 50 11 06

1950 11 11

In the main streets of Cambridge today it looked as though a zoo, a circus, a host of foreign invaders and history’s immortals had been let loose – not to mention members of species hitherto unknown. It was the Poppy Day pantomime again and students were ‘on the make’. Poppy sellers were on the street and some 70,000 poppies were on sale. The Mayor, Ald Taylor, was kidnapped, his hands bound with a scarf and marched out of the Guildhall into a Rolls Royce while police thoughtfully held back the crowds 50 11 11

1951 11 10

Undergraduate collectors set out to break all previous Poppy Day collection records. The “ban” on well-known Middle East personalities made no difference to the high degree of ingenuity shown in extracting money from an ever-willing public. A seductive harem scene on a lorry featured “the Proctor” smoking surely nothing less potent than hashish while on the Magdalene college lorry a European “twist” was given by a “Don” reclining on cushions smoking a “hookah”. A collection of the weirdest Oriental gentlemen ever preceded the lorry with collecting boxes 51 11 10

1951 11 29

It was an affair of honour, to be settled with pistols, that drew a crowd of spectators to Trinity Backs. It arose when a letter written by a third-year Trinity undergraduate to a Girton College law student was intercepted by another Trinity man and the challenge was issued. Half of London’s national newspapers got wind of the duel and two reporters laid an all-night siege to the contestants’ rooms. Early this morning the protagonists slipped through the cordon of pressmen who waited for the duellists to appear. On Trinity bridge the crowd drifted away until all that were left were the newsreel cameraman taking shots of their journalistic colleagues waiting for the duel that did not take place 51 11 29

1952 06 12

Cambridge University is considering the possibility of increasing the number of women permitted to the University in any one year. The Council of Senate recommends there should be a new autonomous foundation for women students, the number not exceeding 100. They consider there is a great need for women graduates but any increase should not lead to a lowering of standards. Present regulations permit of 1,400 women, one-fifth of the total of men students. Cambridge is doing considerably less than other Universities in providing women with a University education.

1953 04 11

Mortar boards abolished [6.9, 6.10]

1953 06 11

A House of Commons committee considered the question of allowances for naval students at Cambridge University. Officers go to Dartmouth for two terms and then go to sea before being sent to Cambridge where they read the Mechanical Sciences Tripos for three years. During the long vacation they are put to work in industries around the countryside. On the completion of their Cambridge course with a degree they enter the electrical school at Farnham. The Chairman asked how their pay was affected when at Cambridge and did they receive an allowance in addition, so they did not become 'broke'. They must have something in the way of an allowance. 53 06 11

1953 08 28

The incidence of suicide at Oxford and Cambridge is higher than at other universities in the U.K. Some years ago the proportion of the population which constituted sound University material was thought to be over 40 per cent. Now that percentage was no higher than 15. "I believe a great deal of frustration, unhappiness and waste is caused by forcing students into University courses when they have neither the intelligence, training, personality or mental fibre to meet the standard of such education. Many breakdowns arise because men are forced into work against their true inclinations, often for family reasons. Sexual disturbances are not important causes of failure, though from time to time students seek refuge in drink or drugs", said the senior tutor of St Catharine's College. 53 08 28

1954 10 06

A new chapter in Cambridge University history has opened on an informal note at New Hall, the third foundation for women, where the first 16 students are now in residence. They drew lots for the rather Spartan bedrooms while a 'combination' room is being used for (voluntary) morning services – there is no chapel - and other activities. A rather gloomy downstairs study room is well-equipped with desks and chairs and nearby is an out-of-doors wringer of hefty make. "We can do our own washing and save on laundry bills", said Miss Angela Holder, a petite, attractive Freshman, giving the handle an experimental turn. Miss A.R. Murray, the tutor, says she welcomes the building – a converted guest house - as a temporary home but looks forward to moving to Byron House in 1960

1954 11 06

Police helmets will be treasured possession in the homes of undergraduates and Cambridge 'Teddy-Boys' who contributed to the Guy Fawkes Night high jinks. One police constable, helmet-less, went back to base for another. But in double-quick time this went too! Frequent clashes broke out between police and revellers. In Market Square a crowd of more than 5,000 screamed, shouted, pushed and laughed but it was 'good natured fooling'. "Teddy" girls screamed at each bang, unsuspecting undergraduates were pounced on by Proctors and 'Bulldogs' and there were boos and hisses each time an untidy-looking urchin was led away, and each time the urchin would protest his innocence of throwing any fireworks.

1955 05 12

A gaping hole, nine feet in circumference and about a foot deep, was blown in the path beside Trinity College Bridge last night. It is believed that a stick of dynamite was used as a student said he heard a terrific explosion and the building shook. The explosion caused leaves to be blown off trees nearby. This is the third time within a year that a deep pit has appeared near the bridge and last week it was decorated with planks and trowels. But two porters and a gardener denied all knowledge and the college spokesman had nothing to say. 55 05 12a [1.22]

1955 06 15

May Balls are with us again. At Trinity Nat Temple and his band played for a large number of dancers, at St John's guests danced to the music of Hedley Ward and his orchestra while at Clare Tommy Kinsman provided music for everyone – one room being set aside for jiving! Downing had a marquee setting where two hundred couples danced to the music of Chappie D'Amato, who also played at Christ's. 55 06 15

1956 10 06

The Cambridge lodging-house landlady is part of the education of every young man who comes to study at the University. She is part-mother, part-landlady & part-disciplinarian who must maintain a difficult blend of deference and firmness in dealing with her young gentlemen. He is told how much rent he must pay, that he pays extra for a piano, hot water for his bath or a scuttleful of coal. But unless lodgings are peaceful and conformable men will not study well. 56 10 06a & b

1956 10 11

First Societies Fair, Corn Exchange [7.1]

1956 11 05

A Suez protest rally was held on Parker's Piece. The back of a lorry provided a speakers' platform and round it was ringed an audience of some 1,500 people who attempted to listen to the arguments through the constant hubbub of a group of dissenting undergraduates. They carried slogans tacked on long-handled brushes saying 'Eden acts where U.N.O. fails' and 'Non-intervention is Suez-cide'. Scuffles broke out and a lone firework was lobbed on to the platform. 56 11 05a

Smoke bombs, water from upstairs windows and counter-cries from undergraduates accompanied the "Stop Eden's War" procession organised by Cambridge Labour Party. Eighty people carrying placards set off from the Alex Wood Memorial Hall but were joined by a second, less orderly procession of undergraduates shouting "Eden Must Stay" to counter the Labour cries of "Eden Must Go". 56 11 05b

1957 05 24

The Night Climbers of Cambridge are at it again. At daybreak two objects had been placed on the spires of King's college chapel. One is the globe of a Belisha beacon, the other a nylon stocking. There was a turret-climbing episode in May 1932 on the eve of Empire Day when a Union Jack was flying from the north-east turret. Two nights previously the pinnacles were decorated with open umbrellas 57 05 24

1957 06 15

Cambridge Night Climbers spend the small hours of the night among the college piers and pinnacles. They work in groups of two or three and their equipment is a pair of soft shoes and gloves with sometimes a punt cushion for crossing the spikes and broken glass set in concrete. They climb for the love of climbing and regard the leaving of flags or underclothes as an error of taste bordering on exhibitionism. 57 06 15c

1957 11 09

Poppy Day photos, p5 & p8

1958 06 09

A unique answer to the Cambridge traffic problems was found during the weekend. Somebody, obvious with an acute parking problem, decided that all the flat space on top of the Senate House was going to waste – so they decided to park an Austin 7 van there! Early-morning passers-by goggled and stared in amazement at the strange sight of hefty firemen and policemen struggling to make the van safe from the wind. Nobody seems to know who put it there. The big problem is: how to get it down.

1958 06 11

Hundreds of students watched – and offered advice – as Civil Defence volunteers tried to remove the Austin 7 van from the roof of the Senate House. It was moved on to the parapet, but it would not pass between the legs of a derrick. Men hammered at its jutting corners and thudded upon its protrusions before deciding that it must come down in pieces. A good deal of parts were lowered on a pulley and stored in a rescue vehicle. Then they drove away. Despite the real courage of the Civil Defence men, the day went well for undergraduate Cambridge. 58 06 11 & a

1958 06 12



Civil Defence men have succeeded in bringing down the van from the Senate House roof. It was cut in half with the aid of an oxy-acetylene torch, then cut up again, and again, until all the parts were of a suitable size to be lowered, starting with the bonnet and wings, then the radiator and steering column. Part of the roof and a side were the last down. The proceedings were watched by the Vice-Chancellor of the University and two or three students who climbed on the roof of the Old Schools building and offered suggestions as to how it should be dismantled. 58 06 12a

1958 06 12

'The Freshman' film has already established itself on the Cambridge scene. The appearance of cameras, technicians, stars and generators at various locations still causes a stir and there is never any lack of people watching the action. German film star Hardy Kruger, who plays an undergraduate, has had a bewildering initiation into real student life. He has seen the May Balls swinging on till dawn. And he has seen that car park on the Senate House roof. No wonder he looks worried! 58 06 13c, 58 06 12

1958 11 03

Gown & Teddy Boys, about 60 taunt proctors [21.7]

1958 11 08

Many householders opened their doors early to a young man in pyjamas or an undergraduate turbaned like a caliph and bought a poppy, then poured into Cambridge to see the fun. Every entrance was barricaded, every vehicle stopped, and toll demanded. Progress was difficult in one street because Mr John Day of Trinity was having breakfast with Miss Alexandra Hearnshaw, a Newnham mathematician, on a Belisha crossing. In Petty Cury two rival dragons occupied most of the road – a dinosaur quite 70 feet long and containing numberless undergraduates of whom only the feet were visible and a toothy monster centipede writhing from the direction of the Senate House. 58 11 08

1959 04 03

University Proctors generally visit dance halls in Cambridge, they could (but rarely did) visit the licensed houses and never visited private houses unless invited. One of the routine duties was the "walking at night". It was their job to see that undergraduates were prevented from annoying citizens, which was more important than fining them for not wearing gowns. There was very close cooperation with the police as proctors had a greater variety of more suitable punishments; students could be rusticated, gated or fined or even have their university driving licenses withdrawn, Dr E.R. Lapwood told businessmen. 59 04 03

1959 10 19

A 21-year-old blonde sat down with 200 students in the dining room of Christ's College – and went completely unnoticed. That was not surprising because she was dressed in a grey suit, bright yellow waistcoat and wore thick glasses and a black beard! Elizabeth Grant, a third year medical student had decided to avenge the fair sex for a hoax played on Girton students last week. College regulations allow students to bring in their (male) friends but women are banned. Everything went off beautifully. She kept her voice down during the meal and although second glances were cast by some, nobody said anything. 59 10 19d

1959 11 06

Roughest November 5<sup>th</sup> for 20 years, banger battles on Market Hill, £200 damage caused 59 11 08g

1959 11 07

Harlequins and Columbines, spacemen and fishermen, artists, engine drivers, unmarried 'Mummies' (Egyptian variety), balloon vendors, winged wonders, hot dog sellers, ghouls and luscious lovelies, all filled the streets of Cambridge to collect money for the Earl Haig Fund. The City was crammed with floats, blasted with instruments and its pedestrians and traffic forced to pay tolls before being allowed to pass. One of the most sombre 'floats' was that lamenting the Labour Party's third consecutive defeat at the polls. Another proclaimed "Life's better under the Conservatives" 59 11 07 & aa

**1960s The Cambridgeshire Collection has detailed newspaper cuttings files from this date**

1960 02 16

David Smith, known as 'Dave' to thousands of members of the University Union, could remember the more leisurely days when as a turkey-carpeted gentleman's club it was the Sunday mecca of hundreds of letter writers, quill pens provided. Before TV, billiards and the gramophone fine gentlemen moved in quiet splendour about the premises. When one of the Society's servants retired they would make a short speech before the Tuesday debate in front of a crowded house. They would then quietly return next day on a part-time basis without any anti-climax and much to everyone's relief. 'Dave' will always be remembered as one of those 'characters' without which the University and life would be the poorer 60 02 16

1960 03 25

University 'Image' magazine launched 60 03 25a

1960 05 06

Tailor on trends in student dress - trend to jeans & duffle-coats, sloppy-joes, 17" trouser bottoms; 80% on grants so fashion informal clothes [21.9]

1960 10 18

The Vice Chancellor has banned all undergraduates from taking part in Guy Fawkes Night celebrations in the city centre. In recent years November 5<sup>th</sup> had been marked by particularly destructive and violent acts, including the use of home-make fireworks, which have caused painful injuries to innocent bystanders. Although students have played only a minor part at the occasions the University are under an obligation to help the city authorities check such disorderly conduct. Now Market Hill and the surrounding area will be out of bounds to members of the University 'in statu pupillari' between 7 pm and midnight 60 10 18 (200 police patrol, no trouble)

1960 11

Granta censored - Highwayman 474 used four-letter words, Frost editor [18.1]

1961

Students' committee formed [18.5]

1961 05 04

Women undergraduates should stop trying to be competitive with the men and become complementary to them instead. There should be optional University classes in cookery, needlework and floral arrangements for the benefit of women, a Girton undergraduate writes in the 'Cambridge Review'. But two Newnham students are indignant that anyone should suppose they are not already proficient in domestic matters when they came up to Cambridge and deny women have no recreation other than working or taking tea 61 05 04

1961 06 08

The 'popsey expresses' are pulling into the station and the city is fast filling up with young girls, here to watch the eights chase each other along the Cam and to dance through a succession of May Balls. There are also 20 concerts, 10 theatrical productions apart from the Footlight's annual frolic and countless exhibitions. Once again Cambridge will take May Week in its stride. It has become used to seeing the revellers in full evening dress walking through the streets for a good day's sleep just as we are beginning another good day's work. 61 06 08a

1961 06 23

BAs & research students freed of wearing gowns in streets after dark [15.7]

1961 10 18

A 20-year old law student at New Hall was carried unconscious from the Cambridge Union Society debating chamber. She was one of three girls who fought their way in as a protest against 'a niggling absurd and out-of-date rule' which forbids women as debating members. As the guest speakers, Peter Thorneycroft, the Minister of Aviation and Labour MP Richard Crossman looked on, the debate was adjourned. In the scuffles that followed the girl fainted. She was taken to Addenbrooke's Hospital. The debate then continued. 61 10 18a

1961 10 31

Undergraduates banned from centre Guy Fawkes Day, follows last year's example to enable police to control danger of home-made fireworks [21.10]

1961 11 17

Buckets of water cascaded over undergraduates who marched along King's Parade as a protest against having to wear gowns. About 250, many without gowns, walked four abreast to the Senate House escorted by a solitary policeman. Other students chanted 'Keep the Gown'. When they reached Senate House Hill three Proctors accompanied by two Bulldogs took down some of the names – they are liable to a fine of six shillings and eightpence. The only 'casualty' was a Bulldog who had his top hat snatched by an undergraduate who ran off in Trinity Street 61 11 17b [21.11]

1961 06 08

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1961 06 08

Thirteen members of the Christ's College Milton Society took part in the traditional annual 'pilgrimage' to the main door of Great St Mary's Church to burn the works of T.S. Eliot. With caps and gowns, and carrying a bust of the poet Milton, the undergraduates walked in procession through the crowded Market Square. Then in front of the church the 'damnable and dangerous works' of T.S. Eliot (Penguin edition) were set in flames on the paving stones. Crowds appeared from nowhere, cameras were clicked, and passages of Milton read before the procession returned towards Christ's and noggins of nut brown ale 61 06 08a

1962 06 20

May Ball rockets bring storm protest calls, Civil Defence man was pulling on uniform before realised it was fireworks [21.12]

1962 10 16

A 'mock funeral' was held for two undergraduates, Philip Gurden of Magdalene and Simon Keswick of Trinity, who were sent down for failing their exams. Their 'coffin' was carried on a sports car while in the 'cortege' at the rear was Prince William of Gloucester who is at Magdalene College 62 10 16 [446.9.6]

1962 10 20

University freshmen to be no longer presented to Vice Chancellor during Matriculation ceremony [15.8]

1962 11 06

Bonfire Night was very quiet this year. Police appeals for people to stay away from the city centre met with a good response and the streets were almost empty. Extensive use was made of radios and police with walkie-talkie sets moved on any groups from street corners. A University ban on students entering the city centre during the five hours before midnight was equally effective. Major incidents

were few and far between and the elaborate measures taken proved more than adequate on one of the quietest Guy Fawkes nights for many years 62 11 06

1962 11 21

Union Society women may now speak [26.8]

1962 12 03

Undergraduates seek distribute Poppy Day money more widely [25.8]

1962 12 30

Samaritans started after 6<sup>th</sup> student suicide in year [7.14]

1963 11 08

Union ballot allows women, first Janet Hogg [7.16]

1962 11 10

Traffic was brought to an almost complete standstill in Cambridge as the Poppy Day Rag got under way and the streets became blocked with floats. Altogether 4,000 students with dustbin lids, tin cans and saucepans collected for the Earl Haig Fund. Dr Kildare performed 'bloody operations' on the streets, Trinity Hall undergraduates shaved Belisha beacons, girls from Girton dressed as blackbirds 'plucked ready for cooking' did hectic business while the 'new Hally Orchestra' gave a command performance with bicycle chains on dustbin lids and old mangles. Pedestrians found it hard to resist a forlorn and bedraggled donkey with an equally forlorn undergraduate clutching a box of soggy poppies. 61 11 10b

1962 12 03

Undergraduates seek distribute Poppy Day money more widely [25.8]

1963 06 08

Austin car slung under Bridge of Sighs – 63 06 08

1963 11 05

History was made when Janet Hogg, a 321-year-old New Hall undergraduate, became the first woman member of the University Union Society since its formation in 1815. Two Girton women became the first to take part in a debate on the motion "Till death do us part is ridiculous". The motion was rejected. To return home to a wife and family after a day of fighting for his existence was one of the most pleasant and happy things that could happen to a man. 63 11 05, 13a first Janet Hogg [7.16]

1963 11 09

Cambridge had a carnival atmosphere for the annual Poppy Day Rag. A procession of 35 gay noisy floats was the first 'organised' procession in rag history. They depicted the Great Train Robbery and the Channel Tunnel. Degrees were sold outside the Senate House, passers-by were menaced with toy guns and undergraduates scrubbed zebra crossing, delaying motorists who were surrounded by students waving collecting tins. It was claimed that The Beatles pop group had been kidnapped and would be sold in Market Square. But News Agency reports say they were returning to Liverpool by car after a tour of Ireland. 63 11 09, a,b Austin car suspended under Bridge of Sighs [12.9,21.14]

1964 11

Last Rag to support only Earl Haig fund [36]

1965

Report on student suicides

1965 01 14

Rag Day proceeds may be used to fund a youth centre for young people who live and work here. The bankside opposite Magdalene College would be an ideal site. There are good reasons: the college buildings are now awkwardly sited in relation to town development and will always be an encumbrance in terms of planning. Townspeople have to pay higher rates because of the specially low rating allowed the colleges and industrial development has been restricted which would have provided new industries. As it is many children have to go to other towns to earn their livings. And when they reach marriageable age they have difficulty finding housing since so much land is taken up by the university. – 65 01 14a

1965 02 10

Cambridge undergraduates may soon be able to go out at night without their gowns. A Council of Senate report supports proposals for the abolition of compulsory wearing of gowns after dark by the Proctorial Syndicate. In June 1961 rules governing academic dress and discipline were amended to allow graduates to go out at night without gowns. But the practice of ‘walking’ would be continued for other disciplinary reasons including visiting licensed premises and places of entertainment – 65 02 10b

1965 02 12

Union Society 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary [26.9]

1965 02 13

Strict male-female segregation rule scrapped by Queens’ College which makes way for new foundation taking both sexes [15.9]

1965 05 01

Proctorial powers and prospects – are archaic and out of touch with modern thought SRC report on discipline – 65 05 01a

1965 05 15

Lab test on ‘dope’ sold in pub [22.1]

1965 06 07

“Peace in Vietnam” banner at Kings [22.2]

1965 07 30

City vote not to change date Rag Day, student protest, seven colleges opt out boycott chosen charities [25.9]

1965 11 13

Rag Day quietest for years following controversy – 65 11 13, 65 11 15

1966

Union Society favour mixed colleges

1966 03 11

Rag Day: try again, split proceeds; British Legion to collect on Poppy Day & undergraduates have rag week later with third of money to Legion; failure [25.10]

1966 04 11

University ban King Street run; started 40 years ago – 66 04 11a; does not take place 66 04 21c; takes place in authorities defiance of proctors – 66 04 28c

1966 11 12

Senate House demonstration [12.13]

1967 04 15

US ambassador in Vietnam protest [22.5]

1967 06 01

Union Society first woman president Anne Mallelieu [26.10]

1967 10 09

Prince Charles arrives to study at Trinity College – 67 10 09, 09a

1967 10 30

Protest at Harold Wilson visit [22.4]

1967 11 18

Fighting local youths & students, Poppy Day collecting tins snatched, flop [25.11]

1968

'Red' Rudi Dutschke to Cambridge for treatment bullet wound in Berlin, offered place Clare but Home Office refused permission stay; CSU backed case, mounted its first ever national march in London; left

1968 02 08

Cambridge Rag for 1968 is axed due to rowdiness and failing enthusiasm of undergraduates – 68 02 08

1968 03 09

Defence Secretary, Denis Healey, hissed by undergraduates after meeting at University Labour Club – wild scenes as Healey leaves, "runs gauntlet of mob", 4 arrested; police federation call for curb on student political demos; University criticised for taking no disciplinary action; new rules - all students who organise procession or demonstration must give written statement of intention to Proctors [22.6-7]

1968 03 13

Hawks club opening [12.14]

1968 10 28

Enoch Powell speaks secretly at Union as police thwart city demonstrations – 68 10 28a

1968 11 25

Three-wheel car hung under Bridge of Sighs – details – 68 11 25a

1969 01 30

Undergraduate sit-in at Old Schools in solidarity with students at LSE – 69 01 30, 30a, 69 01 31

1969 02 08

Prince Charles crowns Rag Queen- 69 02 08b, 69 02 15a

1969 02 15

Rag Day takes new look; parades off in break with Poppy tradition; squeeze into mini car – 69 02 15

1969 02 24

Rag switched to February, raise less than half, St Johns college loses £330, "such a flop people did not realise it was on" [25.13]

1969 02 25

Prince Charles as singing dustman in Rag revue – 69 02 25

1969 03 01

Prince Philip and Princess Anne watch Prince Charles perform in Trinity College revue, handed protest leaflet about tour of South Africa by undergraduates who broke into auditorium – 69 03 01a

1969 05 02

Undergraduates try burn academic gowns on laws of Senate House in protest against examinations – 69 05 02, a

1969 05 09

Changes to Student Representative Assembly in line proposals for reconstituted student representative body with full-time student leader, uproar stops first chaotic meeting, opponents want no formal representation students [26.6]

1969 07 01

Prince Charles' career since he came to Cambridge – feature – 69 07 01b,c,d,e

1969 10 30

Enoch Powell gives slip to chanting city students [22.11]

1970 02 14

“Garden House riot”: police make truncheon charge against mob of undergraduates who surged forward pinning score constables against shattered plate-glass windows causing £2,276 damage Garden House Hotel. City demand punishment for rioters 1000 march to Greek rally, 300 admit to being at anti-Junta demonstration four guilty of riot, seven acquitted; six sent prison periods 5-18 months, two sent to borstal. “GHR changed course of events; afterwards student violence died off, 11,280 at dinner, climax of Greek Week promoting holidays under Right-Wing military dictatorship; Police invoked Riot Act, not used for years. Judge Melford Stevenson said it most complete example of intelligent young people getting involved in complete bloody nonsense - 70 02 14, 14a, 14b, 70 02 18 & a. 70 06 24

1970 02 21

Prince Charles in Trinity Review with bagpipes – 70 02 21

1970 05 13

Prince Charles awarded BA, maiden speech at Union Society on technological advance, Lord Mountbatten present – 70 05 13

1970 07 11

Proctors' future for discipline to be considered – 70 07 11

1970 09 15

Red Rudi Dutschke must leave Sep [23.2]

1970 10 13

Proctors not to attend student political demonstrations which take place off university premises; they will subject only to police and civil law – 70 10 13; students vote to end proctors – 70 10 13b

1970 10 26

Vice Chancellor to meet students who present ultimatum demanding abolition Proctorial system & equal representation with dons on 'inner cabinet' - council of Senate (reject) [23.3]

1970 10 31

Home Secretary Maudling calls off visit [23.4]

1971 01 08

Rudi Dutschke who came to Britain in 1986 to recover from gunshot wounds and has been living at Clare Hall should not be allowed to stay, Tribunal recommends – 71 01 08; call for University strike – 71 01 11; students plan protest – 71 01 14; 1,000 students march – 71 01 16 # c.33 # c.36.93

1971 02 08

Home Secretary Reginald Maudling visit to speak to University Conservatives but nobody give space except Leys where biggest security exercise ever to protect him; ends without trouble – 71 02 08a, b

1971 02 22

Rag Day violence forces decorated float procession to be abandoned – 71 02 22

1971 02 24

Cambridge Students Union link with CCAT, outnumbering undergraduates in an organisation they brought into being at the beginning of last term – 71 02 24

1971 05 25

Kings College accept students on College Council [18.11]

1971 05 29

Regent House approve consultative committee to consider University matters - seven undergraduates, two graduates, seven senior members [18.12]

1971 06 12

A bulldog's life – Edmunds Hill, University Constable 40 years – feature – 71 06 12

1971 11 01

“No undergraduate present for Senate discussion on abolition of proctors ... Cambridge militancy in decline this term - little interest in demonstrations; militancy unfashionable, apathetic majority hold sway ... two of most prominent undergraduate politicians have not returned after sitting their Summer examinations ...” [34]

1971 11 26

Chamber of Commerce strongly disapprove of shops giving discounts to students, but ‘students could retaliate by taking their business to London & leave some city shops with hardly any customers’ [23.6]

1972

Clare, Kings & Churchill become mixed [5.9]

1972 01 15

Union Society reject merger CSU [27.12]

1972 01 28

New Court of Discipline where undergraduates sit in judgement on colleagues established; two of five men panel are students [23.5]

1972 02 03

600 occupy Old Schools in exam protest - against unwillingness of General Board to support faculty proposals for reforming exams [23.7,5.7, 4,12.18]

1972 02 07

Undergraduate sit-in at Old Schools caused damage, forced way through doors into the Squire Law Library; carpet in Combination Room burned by cigarettes – 72 02 07 [5.7]



1972 04 25

Union Society lease part of building CSU to provide facilities all students, [27.12]

1972 02 23

Six new proctors appointed [23.8]

1972 03 09

100 demonstrate at Cambridge University Court of Discipline first & only sitting at Guildhall following Old Schools sit-in; 11 arrested [15.12, 23.8]

1972 04 25

Lord Devlin inquiry - High Steward instituted

1973 02 14

Devlin report calls for tougher line on student sit-ins ... should be persuasion by proctors & university constables followed by police & criminal proceedings, he satisfied that deliberate policy of CSU to resort to direct action; sit-in Lady Mitchell Hall in protest, 1000 march Old Schools as ends [23.9, 35]]

1973 02 14

Students join NUS march Shire Hall for grants rise; ambushed by counter-demonstrators [23.11]

1973 02 17

Cambridge Undergraduates are to continue their occupation of two university buildings until Monday morning. The Sidgwick site sit-in is now Cambridge's longest student occupation on record. Last year's protest at the Old Schools lasted just 48 hours, while the one two years previously was a short-lived 36 hours. The Sidgwick occupation was sparked off by university rejection of some Economics Tripos reforms and now incorporates a protest against Lord Devlin's recommendations to the university 73 02 17

1973 04 25

Report wants greater participation students in running University; four non-voting representatives on Council of Senate & voting students on University faculty boards [24.1]

1973 05 09

Cambridge Students' Union secretary, Mr Rodney Smyth, made university history yesterday as the first undergraduate to speak during a Senate discussion. Normally only Dons are allowed to take part in discussions but for consideration of the joint Don-Student Committee report on student representation in university government both undergraduates and postgraduates were given a special dispensation. Mr Smyth, who had earlier listened to criticisms of the C.S.U. told Dons that he did not think the organisation at present was representative enough of Cambridge students. Proposals to put four students on Cambridge University's "inner cabinet", the Council of the Senate, got a frosty reception 73 05 09

1973 05 16

Students produce 'Alternative Prospectus' [24.3]

1973 05 28

Students reject representation on University government [24.4]

1973 06 02

Report cuts proctors power to fine students & judicial function transferred summary court; Walking should cease, office of special proctor motor vehicles abolished [24.6]

1973 08 21

Undergrads want building similar Graduate Centre, difficulties over using Union [26.14]

1973 11 22

1200 march try admit more women & abandon single-sex colleges - oppose attempts to get special Oxbridge legislation in Equal opportunities Bill [24.6]

1974 01 23

Senate say undergraduates thrown away chance of say [24.7]

1974 06 28

Things have changed since Mr Edgar Blincoe went into service at Cambridge University. "When I first went to the University all the undergraduates came up in lounge suits and bowler hats. Now you see them going down the street eating fish and chips". The discipline has gone. It was for this reason that by the time he carried out his last duties as a Bulldog (or University policeman) he had seen his role reduced. 27 years ago, when he began work, undergraduates had to be in by 10, wear gowns one hour after sunset, and refrain from smoking in academic dress. And when they were caught they faced a 6s.8d fine for not wearing a gown. For returning to college an hour late the price was 1d. 74 06 28

1974 07 30

A Cambridge undergraduate accused of cheating in an examination has been found guilty by the University Court of Discipline. He has been rusticated for the whole of next year and deprived of the chance of obtaining an Honours Degree. This was announced in a statement from the court, who had only their second sitting in history to hear the case. The undergraduate has the right of appeal to the Septemviri. They are the higher court of senior University members who would be convened specially for the occasion and who have not sat since before the last war 74 07 30

1974 08 12

Rag Day move to August flops, 'enthusiasm an all-time low', energy crisis postpones rag to November [25.14, 36]

1975 04 28

King Street Run banned by three pubs [24.9]

1975 06 04

Students occupy Senate House over provision nursery & crèche facilities [24.8]

1975 06 06

Student yells of "Biafran butcher" at General Yakubu Gowon failed to disrupt the Honorary Degree ceremony at the Cambridge Senate House. The General gave the thumbs up sign to a bunch of two dozen students who chanted insults at the Nigerian head of state as he walked in procession. He was flanked on one side by a hefty special branch armed bodyguard plus the Cambridgeshire chief constable, Mr F. Drayton Porter, and by contrast on the other by the tall, elegant figure of Queen Margrethe of Denmark. The 60 policemen on duty had nothing more to do than keep the protestors at arms' length and stop the traffic for the snail-paced procession.

1975 12 03

Students win fight for seats on Senate Council by six votes, allow way for change rules allow two undergraduate & one postgraduate to join [24.10]

1975 06 09

Union Society debating chamber blaze [26.16,41]

1976 01 29

Elections to put students' representative for first time in University Council of Senate, little interest [16.5]

1976 02 13

Biggest crowd decade watch Rag Day parade decorated vehicles [26.1]

1976 11 18

Union Society financial difficulty [28.1]

1978 03 07

Princess Anne mobbed at Rag Charity debate on 'Women's place is in the harem' [26.2]

1978 04 22

The "Cambridge Students' Prospectus" aims to give the student view in parallel with information sent out officially to people applying for places. It says "King's College social life centres around a large, rather squalid bar where undergraduates and the friendlier fellows gather at lunchtime. The college is as cliquey as any other institution but tolerant. It is probably the happiest college with quite a lot of sex, drugs and rock-and-roll". But the Senior Tutor said he thought the remark was 'an unfortunate one which might better have been left out' and had spoken to the publishers. 78 04 22

1978 06 21

Cambridge University Library tower, the last great challenge to the student night climbing fraternity, has been scaled. Two men took just four hours and 15 minutes to climb to the base of the flagpole and attributed their success to the unsuccessful attempts of others during the past twelve months who left bolts attached to the brickwork for safety purposes. It is without doubt the most difficult and dangerous building to climb. On the ascent they caused damage to a small window on the top of the tower. "This was completely unintentional and very much regretted. We have already sent off money to pay for the damage", one student said. c78 06 25

1979

Dr Marie Axtom first woman Proctor [5.11]

1979 05 19

Forty per cent of Cambridge students are potential psychiatric cases, according to a report published by the Students' Union. There are a large number of reasons but whether Cambridge attracts people with a predisposition to mental illness or creates that illness once they arrive, the university has a responsibility to its students. The women in men's colleges are far more stressed than their counterparts in single-sex colleges and the male students about to be introduced into Girton, the oldest women's college, could end up suffering a corresponding weight of stress. The report is bound to spark off controversy among dons 79 05 19

1979 08 21

Six more colleges take women [16.7]

1979 10 24

Dons refuse to recognise CSU as representative body undergraduates until referendum supports [25.4]

## **1980**

1980

CSU take over organisation Rag

1980 06 09

Cambridge May Balls are four nights of student-organised revelry which will delight some and disturb the sleep of others. This year the cost of a double ticket has peaked at £52.50 and some feel they will be pricing themselves out of existence. But the same was being said ten years ago when

Jesus and Trinity were charging eleven guineas. Some tickets do go to outsiders, with adverts often placed in London papers, but the majority of ball-goers are still students. 80 06 09a

1980 06 10

Chanting demonstrators broke through a security cordon at Queens' College Cambridge to protest at a stag night being held by male undergraduates. They 'invaded' from punts and burst through padlocked college gates before marching around outside the dining hall where 150 people were watching two strippers. The entertainment which included a blue comedian and a dirty limerick competition was organised to mark the college's last days as an all-male preserve. 80 06 10b

1980 07 25

Arthur Prior joined the staff of Trinity in 1935 as the youngest porter ever employed by a Cambridge college for the princely wage of £2.15s. a week in the days when porters expected tips for their services; today he retires after being Head Porter for 14 years having served five different Masters.. He is philosophical about major changes such as the admission of women. "These youngsters think they invented sex, but we had women here when I first came. They used to stay all night even then, and we knew all about it", he said. 80 07 25

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1980 11 08

An exclusive university dining club may open its doors to the public. The Pitt Club is a miniature men-only London club where prospective members are vetted carefully and anyone without a public school education is likely to be black-balled. It also houses the Hawks Club for university sporting Blues. But it is no longer making money and is looking for tenants to share the former Turkish bath house in Jesus Lane. Strudels, one of the restaurants in the Kite facing eviction, is amongst a number to express an interest. 80 11 08

1980 11 13

The Chilean Ambassador was forced to clamber to safety across the rooftops of St John's College after demonstrators burst into the locked room in which he was addressing a private meeting of the Monday Club, a right-wing undergraduate society. He was ushered along a narrow ledge and through another window into a don's room while other opponents of the Chilean regime chanted and jeered from the courtyard below. He was unable to leave the college until police arrived to escort him away. 80 11 13a

1981 06 12

Rag raises record £14,000 [26.3]

1981 01 28

A Cambridge student has set up a computer dating service for lonely hearts in the university. For just 50p the unattached undergraduate is promised an introduction to the partner of his dreams. Confidential questionnaires drawn up by a student of experimental psychology were sent out and the results loaded on a computer. It matches them up to produce ideal partners and bliss ensues. It is hoped the first couples will be paired off by St Valentine's Day 81 01 28

1981 02 14

13 arrested RTZ demonstration Garden House Hotel (South African interested mining company) [25.1]

1981 03 11

People do not realise just how hard is concentrated mental study, hour after hour. A conscientious University student who is set on an academic career often works alone but can get bored with subjects they have studied for many years. Arts students tend to come to terms with loneliness sooner than the science students working in the laboratory and are more likely to suffer breakdowns. The University Counselling Service provides 90 hour-long psychotherapy sessions each week to help them cope. 81 03 11a

1981 10 05

The veil of secrecy hanging over the Apostles, one of the world's most exclusive societies was lifted when they held their annual meeting at Christ's College. Members have included the spies Anthony Blunt and Guy Burgess and it was thought the society might have collapsed following their unmasking. But weekly meetings have continued and last 'as long as they are interesting'. 81 10 05b

1982 01 16

Ten thousand copies of the Cambridge student newspaper "Stop Press" have rolled off the presses of the News, the first time it has been printed in the city. With the introduction of direct-image camera and laser printmakers student journalists hope it will save them £150 an issue and enable it to be distributed earlier than before. "Stop Press", a 12-page tabloid-style paper was set up by Cambridge Students Union in the mid 1960s as a radical campaigning alternative to the established student paper, "Varsity", which subsequently folded. 82 01 16

1984 01 03

Controversy surrounded the result of the first game of foot-the-ball played since 1946: it was either a 13-all draw or 13-14 to the Ditton Players. More than 400 people turned up on Parker's Piece to watch the contest between the Players, in Edwardian dress and the Ditton Irregulars. Amongst them was the son of the game's inventor, the late Prof Bill Howell who organised the first match between the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge. The match is played like football except that it has three balls and 15 players to a side. 84 01 05

1984 03 12

Despite rain and a wicked wind Cambridge University undergraduates astonished bystanders with their Rag Day activities. Prince Edward started a sponsored crawl to Grantchester, there were parachute jumps, exhibitions of motorbike skills and a tug of war. Some students with distinguished careers ahead of them leapt from Silver Street bridge into the Cam wearing whiskers, tails and picnic plates for ears in an attempt to fly across the river. Two perplexed French visitors summed it up: "If they are so clever, how can they be so stupid?" 84 03 12 p7

1984 06 12

Cambridge Students' Union has finally won official recognition from the University's dons. The move brings to an end a long and sometimes bitter struggle over the union's status which started more than 14 years ago when CSU was formed. But the dons have voted against formal recognition on four separate occasions since then. Now students are hoping the recognition will lead to financial support from the University 84 06 12 p7

1984 11 21

Proctors' report: "disappointed at the very small amount of peaceful dissension ... & are concerned about current political apathy on the part of students in the presence of numerous national & international problems ... deplores reluctance to use their free speech" [40]

1984 11 22

About 1,000 students protesting at Government proposals on student grants marched from the Senate House to Lady Mitchell Hall where they staged an 18-hour sit-in. Students from CCAT also staged an overnight 'work-in' in their college library. Next day they demonstrated on the steps of Shire Hall where they met Councillors and officials. They are disturbed at proposals that parents should start

paying for part of their tuition fees. Nigel Lawson's plans are an attack on the principle of a free education for all who are able to benefit from it, they claim. It was the biggest show of student protest in Cambridge for 10 years. 84 11 22

1985 03 11

Cambridge's student prince, Prince Edward, has helped to make this year's Rag Week a record-breaker. His appearance in the Rag Revue made the show a sell-out and he is guest-of-honour at the first Charity Ball where the raffle winner will lead off the first waltz with the fair-haired prince. Other rag events included mud wrestling, birdmen leaping from Silver Street Bridge and silly sports such as a tug-of-war across the river and an egg-throwing competition. It ended with punt-jousting and a mixed three-legged rugby match. 85 03 11b

1985 06 05

The young men of Cambridge University who admit to being 'Young Fogeys' are rather proud of the title. They saunter out of the Pitt Club on Jesus Lane planning another cocktail party and pretending the 'Horrible Eighties' have simply not arrived. Forget computers, aluminium briefcases, digital watches and body-building. These young men would swap the whole lot for a good wine, a Betjeman poem and a bank manager who called them 'Sir' and did not try to distribute cash-dispenser cards. 85 06 05 & a

1986 03 03

Rag week parade – 86 03 03a

1986 05 28

A May Ball is the most glamorous, ritzy event of the year and undergraduates don't mind paying for it. The most expensive double ticket for Peterhouse costs 125 guineas but includes dinner and free champagne all night. Trinity charges diners a more affordable £90. But the Ball everyone wants to go to is at Clare College where £220 has been paid on the black market by a couple desperate to attend. Its serene setting with the riverside gardens makes it the most romantic and Germany's 'Stern' magazine is covering it. 86 05 28a

1986 05 28

St John's College May Ball once featured the Rolling Stones and the Beatles on the same night. This year they have booked Imagination and Ruby Turner together with the Coldstream Guards and rock group The Inspirational Choir. There will be free drinks and a buffet all night long although roast swan is no longer served. The 1,700 guests include 20 from the New York banking firm Goldmann Sachs and officers from the Sultanate of Oman will also be flying in. 86 05 28b

1986 05 28

Cambridge-based chart-toppers Katrina and the Waves will be the star attraction at Trinity College May Ball while Sandie Shaw will also be returning to the college where she sang before in the swinging Sixties. Jazz and steel bands – even Scottish pipers – will play till dawn. An all-night casino, laser displays and cabaret acts will also ensure there is no time to be bored. But King's College stopped holding May Balls in the sixties: students decided they were too expensive and not the sort of entertainment they wished to be associated with. They now hold June Events instead 86 05 28b

1986 06 18

A K-registered Ford Escort was found dangling from Clare College bridge. The vehicle came from a scrapyards but it remains a mystery how it got there. One theory is that it was brought down the Cam on punts then hoisted up and lashed into place with ropes and chains. The jolly jape brought laughter from river users but now the college is faced with removing it. They are seeking advice from King's who last year removed a Fiat that was 'parked' in the middle of the river on stilts 86 06 18c

1986 10 10

Magdalene, the one college in the Oxbridge system where a chap could count on being in the exclusive company of other chaps, is set to go co-educational. The governing body has voted to overturn 444 years of historical precedent and amend the statutes. The news was greeted with glum resignation by some of the present undergraduates. That other bastion of entrenched traditionalism, Peterhouse, finally said yes to women students last year, a trend that started in 1972 when Churchill, Clare and King's went mixed. 86 10 10 [8.5]

1988 05 20

Magdalene is the only college in Cambridge to host candle-lit dinners in the grand hall every night of the week. But other traditional values are changing. The decision to admit women dons and undergraduates has prompted refurbishment of the college's Spartan amenities, bringing in floral curtains and pastel pink wallpaper to the rooms of even the hardest rugby players. Today much of the opposition to the decision has subsided, although the 'Black October' dining society still celebrates the masculine virtues of single-sex colleges. Whether the college's character can survive this quantum leap into the present remains to be seen 88 05 20b

1987 03 27

The world-famous Cambridge University Hawks Club, founded in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, is to open in the city's up-market Portugal Place. It will turn the former Blue Boar Hotel's staff hostel into a club for the university's top sportsmen similar to the better gentleman's clubs in St James, London. Residents have expressed worries about noise and one councillor thought it wrong to spend such money when Cambridge urgently needs student accommodation. But supporters say it is a 'very valuable little house' that would be exceedingly well looked after. 87 03 27b [25.2]

1988 05 20

The trend towards admitting female undergraduates began in 1972 when Churchill, Clare and King's Colleges went mixed. Two of the first girls were from Cambridge schools. By June 1982 when Pembroke 'fell' there were only two colleges left as all-male preserves, then Peterhouse reluctantly bowed to pressure. But when Magdalene's governing body overturned 444 years of historical precedent by voting to let in women an indignant porter flew a black flag at half mast and undergraduates sported black armbands. Three of the original four women's colleges are still single sex, though Girton admitted men in 1977. 88 05 20c

1988 10 12

Thirty-six women undergraduates arrived at Magdalene College amid a blaze of publicity breaking 444 years of history as a male-only college, the last in Cambridge. They had been warned about the dreaded Black October dining society whose members donned funereal armbands when it was announced that the college was to 'fall', and expected a lukewarm welcome. Surprisingly the reverse is true. One said "I think some of the men were frightened that the girls were going to be extremely militant or feminist. But they seem quite pleased and say it is a lot more social" 88 10 12

1990 05 24

University Counselling Service set up in 1968 following student suicides – feature – 90 05 24c

1990 10 11

Bedmakers – recollections of Edith Free, started Trinity 1945 – 90 10 11b